Calgary metro

CANADIAN MEDAL COUNTER 1 1 5

GOLD FOR PENNY
Oleksiak makes Olympic history

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, AUGUST 12-15, 2016 | High 21°C/Low 10°C Partly cloudy

Aborted probe, big paper trail

metro EXCLUSIVE

Metro investigation into leak raises even more questions

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

An internal investigation into a politically damaging leak the government told the privacy commissioner never happened still somehow created more than 200 pages of documents, Metro has learned.

On Wednesday, Alberta's information and privacy commissioner, Jill Clayton, released her investigation into the leak of former MLA Thomas Lukaszuk's $20,000 cellphone bill in August 2014, pointing at then premier Alison Redford's office as the likely source of that leak.

When the leak first happened, interim premier Dave Hancock ordered the Public Service Commissioner to conduct a separate investigation. Metro filed a Freedom of Information request on that investigation in July 2015.

But on Wednesday, Brian Hamilton, the investigator in the privacy commissioner's office who looked into the leak, said it appears the government "took no action to investigate this matter for almost four months until it decided to hold-off conducting an investigation."

This statement appears to contradict the response Metro received in a freedom of information request.

That request was returned by the government, indicating there were more than 200 pages of records related to the Public Service Investigation — but none of them could be released.

In its response, the government used sections of the FOIP Act preventing the disclosure of records that have legal privilege or would interfere with a police investigation.

Metro has appealed the government's response and the process continues to play out.

The leak also prompted a Calgary police investigation, as whoever sent the cellphone bill to a reporter falsified their identity to do so.

Lukaszuk's cellphone bill came in the middle of his run for the Progressive Conservative leadership race and forced him to explain how he spent public funds.

Lukaszuk ultimately finished third.

JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Huffington Post co-founder Arianna Huffington departs company to head health startup.

Police recruit media for use-of-force training

COMMUNICATIONS

Participants of workshop put in realistic scenarios

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Cst. Ben Hollins instructs reporter Lucie Edwardson on how to apply pressure points on pretend bad guy, CTV reporter, Jamie Mauracher. AARON CHATHA / METRO

The Calgary Police Service wants to help the media and public better understand use of force, how they make their decisions and how their officers are trained.

Media was invited by CPS on Thursday to participate in a half-day workshop aimed at answering questions, explaining training techniques and to participate in scenarios that illustrate how quickly police must make a decision on how to act.

"When people ask if it's because of recent incidents involving use of force, the answer is yes," said Chief Roger Chaffin.

Media were first given a lecture about communication training techniques.

Cst. Marcus Egeborn trains CPS recruits in something called "verbal judo." It's an eight-step communication outline aimed at guiding officers through communicating with a subject — whether they are getting a speeding ticket or involved in a hostile potentially violent situation.

"When we speak to someone, we have a goal in mind," he said. "Voluntary compliance is that goal."

Egeborn explained that verbal judo attempts to personalize a situation, give the subject reason for why police are involved, justify any consequences and give the individual positive options.

"We teach positive language and active listening," he said.

Stanton said CPS recognizes that things in real life are different than in training scenarios.

> **The mindset has got to be to treat people with respect, do our best to engage with people.** Sgt. Lee Stanton

"We've all had situations where we look at what happened after and how we reacted and say, 'I'm not going to do that again,' and we learn," he said.

The second half of the day was spent learning about use of force.

Cst. Alanna Sherwood explained to media that CPS categorizes un-complying people during an incident. She said there are passive resistors, active resistors, assault resistors and those who could cause grievous bodily harm or death.

Sherwood and another training officer showed media physical techniques including using body weight, applying pressure points and how to use a baton when arresting someone.

"Always see if you can talk to them first," she said. "But, when they don't you have to make a decision."

HANDS-ON

Stepping into their world

Today I got a glimpse into the world of a frontline police officer — and I was overwhelmed.

Not only was I a lot weaker than I thought I was — I had a very hard time getting someone's arms out from under them — but I saw how quickly a police officer must make a decision.

After learning about how police are trained to speak with subjects, how they can use different physical techniques to gain compliance — and practicing those, a few volunteers were put into more realistic scenarios.

The volunteers wearing training belts holding all fake tools including a gun, a taser, pepper spray and cuffs.

One scenario involved a man with a bat who charged at the media participant pretending to be an officer. He pulled his gun.

The second scenario was a domestic situation where the man with a knife broke into his house threatening to kill his wife. The media participant didn't use any tool — and the man entered the home.

In the final scenario, two participants were faced by a man loading a gun threatening to kill them — both participants pulled their guns, and one participant shot the subject three times.

In the end we talked about the decisions that were made.

"Based on knowledge, experience and understanding other people will make different decisions," said Sgt. Stanton. "You see how quickly our decision making progress has to be and how quickly things can change."

LUCIE EDWARDSON/METRO

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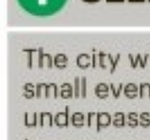
Cycle track pilot to hit 1M trips

INFRASTRUCTURE

Coun. Chu not satisfied with study's findings



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

One million.

It's a nice round number for the downtown cycle track pilot, and one administration wasn't sure they'd hit so soon.

This Wednesday, or sooner, the counter will go from over 980,000 trips on Thursday at the three main count locations, to 1,000,000.

Tom Thivener, the bike boss working at the City of Calgary, said this is only the start of what the city could see if the network continues to grow and become connected.

It's a nice round number, but what does it mean? On it's own, not much.

But the City of Calgary has also released their 2016 cordon count, which is gathered each year in May.

The numbers show a 40 per cent increase of bike traffic over last year's count and a 70 per cent increase over five years — it's the first time the city can statistically prove that new cyclists are taking advantage of infrastructure in the core.

"This is the first proof that we've created new riders, and that's also a very important step in this process," Thivener said.

"There's more people biking, walking and taking transit into downtown than ever before; 60 per cent according to the cordon numbers."

The pilot will finish up the data collection stage in September and move to a final council decision in December. But the numbers aren't enough to sway one skeptic.

Coun. Sean Chu said he's looking for solid data, in terms of how many drivers have traded in gas guzzlers for the two-wheel view.

And he's not satisfied these numbers show anything but a mild winter — and extended bike season — let alone people giving up cars.

"It doesn't tell me people are giving up driving," said Coun. Sean Chu.

He explained the pilot funnelled users from several different routes to a few key tracks in the core.

"There's a funnelling effect, of course numbers are going to go up."

Agustin Louro, president of Bike Calgary, said it's tough to tease out what's happening with motorists.

"The cordon counts tell us auto use is up 3.3 per cent, while bike use is up 39.7 per cent, and the overall average is 3.5," said Louro.

"Auto use is increasing below the overall average while bike use is increasing above the overall average."

And weather isn't the only factor Bike Calgary is seeing when it comes to the 40 per cent hike in downtown cyclists. Louro said 2015 was a warm year too, and weather alone doesn't explain the bump.

"If it was only the weather you'd expect numbers to be the same from one year to another; and they're not," said Louro. "We've got this marked increase."

According to the recent census statistics, people biking to work has gone up by 101 per cent since 2011, and lone motorists down by 3.2 per cent.

But driving alone to work still counts towards a majority of the pie in 2016, with 67 per cent of respondents.

+ CELEBRATION

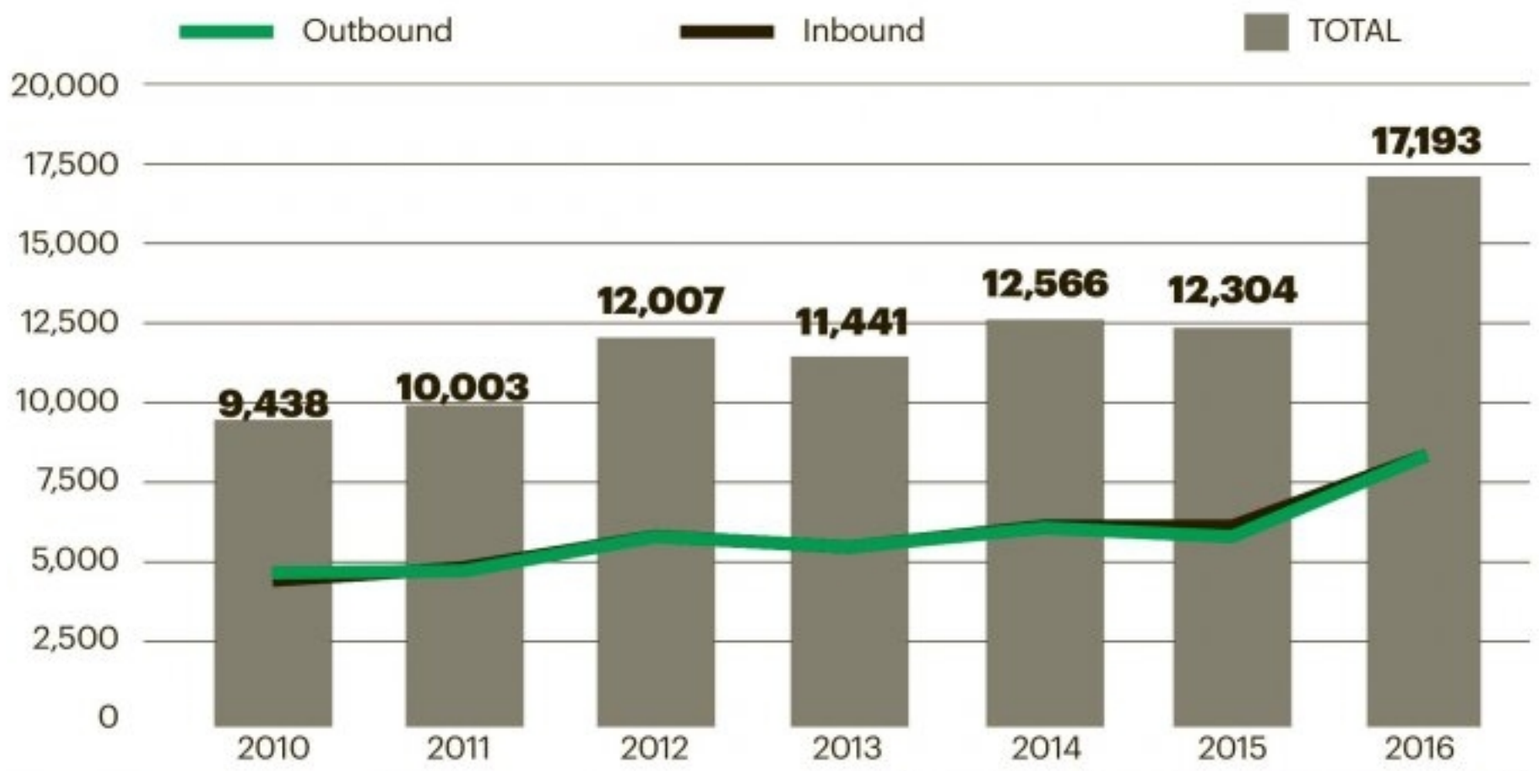
The city will be holding a small event at the 5 Street underpass on Wednesday to commemorate the milestone from 4 to 6 p.m. There will be information, a free souvenir sticker and bike ambassadors handy to answer questions.

It's a tight fit, so the city is asking people to slow down and take care as they pass, or join in on celebrations.

No word on confetti cannons, or other merriment — the city said it's a surprise.

BY THE NUMBERS

Annual May count of total downtown bicycle trips.



Calgarians are taking to the downtown cycle tracks as the one-year pilot study comes to a close.
METRO FILE

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Inspired by the works at the Glenbow, selected items will be sold at the Glenbow Shop. AARON CHATHA / METRO

Glenbow and Etsy join forces

MARKETPLACE

Local makers given chance to create items for museum

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Local Etsy business owners will soon be offered the chance to move their virtual shelf space into the real world — specifically, into the Glenbow Museum.

The virtual market place has struck a deal with Calgary's Glenbow to allow Etsy members to create new and unique products for the museum.

The Etsy marketplace allows users to sell their homemade goods through the website.

"We have so many talented artists and makers here in Calgary and Alberta," said Jenny Fisher, Glenbow marketing manager.

"It's always fun to find ways to activate the collection — we have so much really cool stuff at Glenbow and only a small portion of it can be on display at one time."

They'll be taking in applications from anyone in the province, and select a small portion of them to go behind the scenes at the Glenbow. There's a ton there for them to see.

The Glenbow houses more than 30,000 pieces of artwork, plus objects like tea cups, dresses and massive gambling tables from Western Canadian history, military history, Japanese samurai armour and even medieval weaponry. And that's only the tip of the iceberg.

The museum will try to match selected applicants with items or eras that interest them, in the hopes they'll be inspired to make something cool for the store.

"We have sort of crossed that line between art museum and cultural history museum. For us it's all about the art of making and things that have been created, used and have importance in peoples lives," explained Fisher.

> **We have sort of crossed that line between art museum and cultural history museum.**
> Jenny Fisher

The final products will be looked at by a jury, and the best items will be selected for the storefront.

"By partnering with Glenbow's supportive community Etsy can help local artists expand on their creativity, create new work and grow their businesses," said Erin Green, managing director of Etsy Canada.

For more information, search the #EtsyatGlenbow hashtag on Twitter.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

NDP wants review of Kenney fundraising

The NDP wants Alberta's chief electoral officer to investigate Progressive Conservative leadership hopeful Jason Kenney's political fundraising activities.

Alberta NDP Provincial Secretary Roari Richardson said the review should also include Unite Alberta, Kenney's provincial political organization.

Richardson said the NDP believes Kenney and Unite Alberta are breaking provincial election laws.

"There are legitimate questions about Mr. Kenney's fundraising and spending, and we hope that Elections Alberta can shed some light on this," Richardson said on Thursday.

"If Mr. Kenney wants to run here, Albertans expect him to follow the rules."

Kenney, who is a federal Conservative MP, announced last month that he is seeking to rally conservative voters in Alberta in a new party to defeat the NDP in the 2019 provincial election.

The Progressive Conservative leadership race doesn't officially begin until October.

Elections Alberta said it has received the NDP request, but has no authority to review fundraising outside of an official election campaign.

Kenney said the NDP request to Elections Alberta came a day after Unite Alberta attacked the government for bringing forward a proposal to have taxpayers bankroll election campaigns. The NDP proposal would rebate political candidates and parties half of their expenses if they win at least 10 per cent of the vote.

"It's clear that the NDP government is increasingly focused on attacking the one candidate who is uniting Albertans against their disastrous government," Kenney wrote in an email.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taxi stands, dispatch top ways to hail cabs— for now

TRANSPORTATION

One in five Calgarians are using an app to catch a ride

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

You couldn't really call it a well-kept secret, but most Calgarians who aren't using taxi apps are missing out according to the companies who make them available.

The up-to-date apps all are equipped to help customers out without hearing the hold music during peak hours, let you see where your car is, and what the car number is. Most apps even allow users to look back on trips, and rate their experiences.

But the 2016 satisfaction survey still shows dispatch and taxi stands are king for those trying to get a ride, and the satisfaction numbers for taxi use through booking online or through an app have declined slightly from 2015.

Currently one in five taxi users are utilizing the apps available, and interest is increasing too. The survey found over 53 per cent of Calgarians will look to book online or through an app next year, up from 40 per cent in 2015.

Associated, Calgary United Cabs and Checker all reported over 20 per cent of their fares use their apps to book trips. METRO FILE

A quick search of "Calgary taxi" in the app store shows five local results: Checker, Calgary United, Associated, Mayfair, and Allied Black.

"The online and app-based service is becoming more popular," said Chief Livery Inspector Mario Henriques. "I think from a convenience perspective, assurance a taxi or transportation network company is coming to you is something the consumer's wanted, and that's what we've tried to deliver."

Most cab companies advertise their apps – hence the not so secret secret – and they're all seeing usage go up. Out of the three companies contacted about their app, Associated, Calgary United Cabs and Checker all reported over 20 per cent of their customer base is accessing the app to book trips.

"We see (the use) increase and on weekends it increases even more," said Kurt Enders, president of the Checker Transportation Group in Calgary. "They don't have to sit on the line, they can just book it, finish their drink and make their way outside – there's an ease and convenience for customers."

Enders and Roger Richard from Associated Cabs both noted it can be a faster way to grab a taxi – or, at least it feels that way.

"On a busy call volume day you can get through on the app," said Enders.

According to Rupinder Gill, president of Calgary United Cabs, it's not just a customer pleaser, but can also make the driver's lives easier.

"It's easier to find the person, right?" said Gill. "You can connect easier than over the phone."

CAR-SHARE

Users looking for Uber

Although most Calgarians know Uber isn't operational here, visitors at Calgary Stampede were looking for the "ridesharing" giant during the rainy week.

According to the company's data, more than 14,000 opened the app that week looking to get picked up.

Out of those, 40 per cent were from outside the province of Alberta.

30% CALGARY CAB

Percentage of users with Calgary United Cabs booking through the app

25% ASSOCIATED CAB

Users accessing ride services for Associated Cab and Allied Black

20% CHECKER

Percentage of users accessing the Checker app.

Dragon Boat Festival marks 25th year

HERITAGE

Glenmore Reservoir will host 58 teams over two days

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

It's a milestone year for the Calgary Dragon Boat Society as they mark the 25th anniversary of their annual festival this weekend.

Festival co-chair Joe Connelly said this year's two-day event at North Glenmore Park will have something for everyone, including cultural performances, vendors, food trucks, and a beer garden from Village Brewery.

And of course there will be lots of action on the water as teams race on the Glenmore Reservoir over the two days.

Dragon boating has become closely tied with breast cancer survivors, and this year those teams will race on Saturday, along with a pink flower ceremony.

Connelly said there will also be two blind teams taking part, along with the usual corporate and competitive teams. In total, 58 teams will take part.

Proceeds from this year's event will go towards Give A Mile. The Calgary-based charity collects people's travel reward miles from credit cards and loyalty programs to help people in need fly to be with loved ones.

Give A Mile volunteer Colin Szopa said the best part about being the charity partner is getting exposure at the festival. He said they will have a booth set up and hope to inform more people about what they're doing.

You don't have to get in the water to enjoy this weekend's Dragon Boat Festival at North Glenmore Park. METRO FILE

LGBTQ COMMUNITY

Calgary Pride raises $5k for crosswalk

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Just like that, a rainbow appears.

Calgary Pride has raised over $5,500 in 24 hours towards their $4,000 goal to erect a rainbow crosswalk across Centre Street along the Stephen Avenue mall.

This after uncertainty about another crosswalk in 2016, after last year's anniversary crosswalk was Calgary's first, and one of the largest LGBTQ pride walks painted.

"We're very excited and grateful for community support of this effort," said Calgary Pride's director of government affairs Craig Sklenar. "In the lead up to launching the fundraiser we heard from a lot of people, so we were hoping that would actually translate into donation dollars — and it did."

Sklenar said this shows community is excited for these types of installations in Calgary.

LOOK OUT

According to the city, the crosswalk will be painted, weather permitting, on Sept. 1.

On Monday, Metro reported this year's crosswalk was up in the air, as Pride Calgary couldn't invest in the monument because of tough economic times. Their energy and cash was better spent on advocacy, and working towards a more permanent monument with Coun. Evan Woolley in 2017.

Since then, the organization launched a fundraiser online, asking those interested in seeing the attraction to contribute. As of Thursday morning, the goal was met with over 60 donations — including $100 from Coun. Sean Chu.

The campaign is still open, because there's cash to collect for a future, and more permanent monument. So, if you've missed out in donating, don't fret.

"If people still want to donate to the fund, we're excited to take those donations for our effort. We'll ensure the money is used for the future installation," said Sklenar.

According to the city, the crosswalk will be painted, weather permitting, on Sept. 1. It will likely be removed when road cleaning is scheduled one to two weeks after pride.

Sklenar noted the city has ordered the paint and are readying staff to have the lines done for pride week.

In just 24 hours, the organization has raised enough to build a temporary LGBTQ monument across from the Calgary Tower.
METRO FILE PHOTO

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Refugee family reflect on year

IMMIGRATION

It's been 18 months since foursome's wintry arrival

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Badr Martini and Darin Danbasa came to Canada fleeing the civil war in Syria almost exactly one year and six months ago — and although Calgary was once a dark, unknown, cold place for the couple, they now say they feel it's their forever home.

In the beginning the refugee couple said life for them and their two young daughters, Maria and Laya was very hard.

"The first month we were here I had heart bypass surgery and I was in the hospital," said Martini. "I didn't know what I should expect when I left the hospital."

Danbasa said she felt similar.

"I had no one," she said. "The system was unfamiliar, the language was different and we were far from everything we knew — it was nothing like our country."

Maria Martini, 7, Badr Martini, Darin Danbasa, and Laya Martini, 4, said they now consider Canada their forever home.
LUCIE EDWARDSON / METRO

But, the couple, who were both artists back in Syria, said after they met a few Canadian families and members of the Syrian Refugee Support Group, things began to turn around.

"We love the people here. They're very honest and always helping in any way," said Danbasa.

Martini and Danbasa said their new Canadian friends showed them how to navigate the city, helped them enrol in English classes at Columbia college and made sure they had everything they needed for their family.

And their children, two daughters aged 7 and 4, are flourishing.

"Maria has friends at school and she learns English so quickly," the parents said.

Their struggles are far from over though.

"Everything is step-by-step," said Danbasa. "We must first study English and then when our language is better we can find jobs."

The family said the province and friends are currently aiding them financially.

> **"One day we will go back to our country and visit with our girls. But, for us, Canada is now home.**
> Darin Danbasa

Martini said when his family landed in Canada they were scared.

"It's normal to be scared, because it's the unknown," he said.

The couple said they do miss Syria, but not the one on the news — the happy, warm, comforting Syria they knew before the war.

"We miss the sun, the smells, the people," said Martini.

They hope one day to return for a visit.

"Our daughter has a small memory, but she knows the feeling of missing home as we do," said Danbasa.

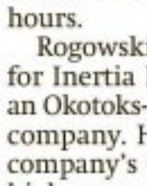
"One day we will go back to our country and visit with our girls. But, for us, Canada is now home."

The legal right for people to medicate with marijuana has created conflicts for companies tasked with keeping workers safe on the job, says one industry expert. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Medical pot user fights dismissal

LABOUR

Marijuana use big issue for employers, expert says



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Darrin Rogowski said he is launching a human rights complaint after his employer let him go in late July because he uses medical marijuana after hours.

Rogowski, 30, was working for Inertia Environmental — an Okotoks-based hydrovacing company. He worked on the company's trucks, which use high-pressure water to move earth when excavation by other means isn't allowed.

"When I got my medical marijuana licence back in May, I told one of my supervisors I had it, and nothing else was really said about it," he said.

But on July 27, he was told he would be let go since they knew he could not pass a urine test.

"I said, 'Well, I can get a letter from my doctor stating I don't do it at work. I'd be fine at work,'" said Rogowski. "I don't see what the big deal is. It's like taking a Tylenol or any other prescription."

Rogowski uses marijuana for chronic back and neck pain after being in several car accidents. He said he's also been diagnosed with glaucoma, although he hasn't discussed marijuana use with his ophthalmologist.

Rogowski said he only uses it in the evening for pain relief and as a sleep aid.

Metro contacted Inertia Environmental but the company declined to comment on the case.

However Neil Tidsbury, president of Construction Labour Relations (CLR), said authorized marijuana use is becoming a much bigger issue for employers in the construction industry who have to balance the rights and safety of all workers on the jobsite.

He said no level of government has helped employers navigate this tricky situation.

"The legislative guidance as to what employers should do in these cases is pretty much a vacuum," said Tidsbury.

Rogowski has mailed a complaint to Alberta Human Rights Commission.

"They said I have a case, but again it's kind of unprecedented territory right now," he said. "Companies right now don't know what they should be doing. Even if I don't get my job back, maybe it will open eyes to change laws. "

WEATHER

Damp weather putting city trees at risk

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Your lawn may love the rain, but many of Calgary's trees are at risk to a bacterial disease this summer due to weather.

The City of Calgary is warning citizens, and hoping to inform them, about how to properly deal with Fire Blight after hail, rain and humidity have put trees at risk of contracting the rare infection.

"It usually happens earlier in the springtime, but it likes warm and humid summer weather," said Jeannette Wheeler, urban forestry lead with the City of Calgary. "With the rain and hail it can spread quite quickly."

The disease makes leaves look fire scorched and makes new growth wilt. Fire blight can also make amber liquid ooze from twigs.

According to the city's website, the most troubling symptom are bark cankers, which can mean the tree is dying.

Wheeler said Calgary's rose family shrubs and trees — which the disease targets — normally aren't at risk because of our dry weather.

So far there haven't been any reported cases she's aware of.

To combat the disease on private property if it appears pruning is the answer. But Wheeler said the best method to combat spreading the disease is to dip shears in a bleach and water solution after each snip.

"You take the pruned material and bag it before sending it off to the dump," Wheeler said.

The City of Calgary is monitoring public trees and pruning them as necessary. But Wheeler said if citizens see signs of fire blight in city-owned trees they can report them to 311.

Province defends $2B estimate

ENERGY PRICES

Official won't say what the government's forecasts are

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Would you rather take a $2 billion or $600 million loss? The government wants neither, as it enters a legal fight to remove an "unlawful" clause it claims will saddle consumers with billions of dollars in losses.

Earlier this week, Metro spoke with a government official on background regarding the province's claim that the recent hand-back of some power purchasing agreements (PPAs) to the Balancing Pool could cost consumers up to $2 billion by 2020.

The $2-billion figure is much higher than what academics say will be $600 million in new losses, if the government takes on a group of more unprofitable electricity contracts.

Deputy Premier Sarah Hoffman says the province is fighting the regulation so taxpayers aren't on the hook for $2 billion.
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA/CONTRIBUTED

The $600-million figure was penned by economists Andrew Leach and Trevor Tombe, who concludes that a typical household would face an additional $2.25 on their monthly power bills for the four remaining years of a group of coal power contracts that companies are trying to terminate.

So how is the government getting its $2 billion number? The official says it stems from more conservative estimates in forecasted prices, which the province won't provide publicly.

What the government and the report can at least agree on is it's going to cost Albertans at least $600 million, if they put themselves in the position of the buyer.

So why not just say $600 million? The official says the government "is on the pin" for what it tells Albertans.

The official says, at the end of the day, the government is accountable for its numbers.

So what are these conservative projections? The official won't say what the prices and variables are, but assured the numbers may come forward when the court case progresses.

Leach and Tombe's report says the total lost value on coal power contracts from lower prices and carbon regulations amounts to about $900 million, with $300 million of that coming from the Genesee coal plant for which the power distributor is already responsible for.

The paper says about half of the lost value comes from new carbon regulations, while a significant drop in power prices makes up the other half.

The government goes to court in November.

WITH FILES THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CRIME

Man arrested in hit and run

Police have tracked down a man who has been wanted for a fatal hit-and-run that happened in February.

Canada-wide warrants were issued for Derek Brian Grouette, 33, after a fatal collision on 37 Street SW on Feb. 18.

Police received a report of a collision involving two vehicles and subsequent witness reports that one of the vehicles involved, a truck, was going southbound in the northbound lanes of 37 Street SW. The truck collided with another vehicle just south of the intersection at 130 Avenue SW. and occupants of the truck ran from the scene. It is believed the truck was stolen from Chestermere prior to the incident.

The driver of the other vehicle, Keith Arthur Morley, 52, sustained fatal injuries and was declared deceased on scene.

Derek Brian Grouette CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

Two individuals, Janelle Umpherville, 26, and a 17-year-old male have previously been charged. On Aug. 10, Grouette was involved in a foot chase with Blackfalds RCMP officers. He faces many charges including one count of hit and run causing death and one count of dangerous driving causing death.

METRO

FOOD

Taste of Calgary to showcase craft beer, over 40 local vendors

Hungry? We sure are.

This weekend is the Taste of Calgary's 20th year of adding zip, zest and sizzle to Calgary's foodie scene.

This year there are over 40 restauranteurs and vendors to choose from with 30 sample sized craft beers to accompany each treat.

Entry to the experience is free, with a $1 ticket price for each sampling. Vendors will be on site at Eau Claire's festival plaza with food, drink and tunes to take you through the weekend.

If you're full don't worry, the festival also highlights local artisans and entrepreneurs along with some sweet music on a main stage to kick up the festivities a notch. Taste of Calgary is open from 11 am to 9 pm daily, August 11 to 14. METRO

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NORTHERN ALBERTA

Man guilty of wife and her daughter's murder

Cindy McKay-Perry says she hopes the man convicted Thursday of killing her sister and her sister's daughter never gets out of prison.

"This is not real justice for us because we still don't get our loved ones back," she said Thursday after Edward Chomiak was found guilty of first-degree murder in the 2010 death of Melody Perry.

Chomiak, 55, was also found guilty of the second-degree murder of Jerica Bouchard.

"I hope he never sees the light of day," she said outside court in Peace River, Alta.

"I hope that he dies in that prison, wherever he goes."

Chomiak is to be sentenced Friday.

Court heard that he shot both of the women in their home on Dec. 15 near Fahler, 430 kilometres northwest of Edmonton.

During the trial a tape of a 911 call was played in which Perry tells a dispatcher that Chomiak is in the house with a gun and had shot her daughter.

The dispatcher tells her to stay in the bathroom and close the door, and doesn't hear anything more from Perry.

RCMP found Bouchard's bloody body in the kitchen of the home. She was 20.

Perry, who was 45, was found dead in a bathroom.

Police later found a restraining order in Chomiak's truck that named the two women.

McKay-Perry said the brutal crimes and the six years it took to bring the case to trial took a heavy toll on the family.

"It has been a long hard road. I feel the justice system on both parts — Canadian and in Alberta — has let us down," she said.

"I feel the final Band-Aid has been removed — the wounds can start to heal."

THE CANADIAN PRESS (CKYL)

Co-founders Casey Kachur and Nate Edwards, who set up a bricks and mortar relocation service in 2012, integrate their experience in moving and relocation with their new startup, Virtuo.. COURTESY VIRTUO

Relocation expertise on new app

STARTUP

Offers help with home search, redirecting mail, and more

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

The creators behind startup Virtuo want to help you move on.

And by that, they don't mean move on your career or your love life — we assume that's what Tinder is for — but move on to a newer, better home.

The free virtual assistant handles everything from finding a realtor to setting up mail forwarding with Canada Post.

"We're with them the entire way," said Nate Edwards, co-founder.

"We're going to be targeting people in the searching phase of new homes, and part of our service is the planning and budgeting of the entire relocation."

That's a ton of work to do for free — but Edwards and co-founder Casey Kachur keep the lights on by getting a referral fee from the real estate agent.

Their aim is to create a one-stop shop to help manage costs, time and inform you of often unforeseen expenses.

For example, they walk clients through the pros and cons of hiring a moving company.

While many would opt to rent a truck and do it themselves, paying a bit for a mover would help avoid back-breaking labour, and most importantly time.

They'll set it up, whatever your decision, and once you've moved they take care of little things, like changing the utility bills or finding affordable cleaners.

"We have a long history in moving. My grandfather started a moving company and it's one of the largest in Western Canada," said Kachur, adding it's through the company he and Edwards met.

"So, between the two of us, there's 40 years of moving."

They also started a relocation company in 2012, so Virtuo was a natural next step.

Apps for iOS and Android are in development, but Virtuo can be accessed via desktop at virtuo.com.

> We're going to be targeting people in the searching phase of new homes. Nate Edwards

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Locked bicycle note goes viral

BMO CENTER

Calgary man makes best of inconvenient incident

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

One Calgary man said an annoying situation he found himself in on Tuesday is one he can now laugh about.

Daniel Kleer drives into Calgary from Airdrie each day, parks his car at Telus Spark and rides his bike into downtown. Which is what he did on Tuesday, locking it up at the BMO Center.

But, after he finished at his construction working job around 2:30 p.m. Kleer found an unexpected — and inconvenient — surprise.

"I went to get my bike to go back home and someone had locked their bike to mine thinking they'd locked it to the bike rack but they'd also looped it through my bike," he said.

Kleer said he tried to come up with a solution, asking the security guards at the building to cut the lock and contemplated returning to his job site to get a saw and cut the lock.

"I wanted to go home but I was worried if I cut the lock the other bike would get stolen," he said. "Of course I was mad at whoever's bike it was but I wasn't that mad."

So, Kleer decided to write a sassy note, zip tie it to the bikes and use his own lock to lock his bike to the other one — forcing whoever made the mistake to call him.

"So, now I'm stuck here! I'm going to have a beer (you'd better be buying!)."

Kleer included his number and signed off with "Call me at ____ when you're ready to un-f-- my day!"

> **It all worked out in the end.**
> Daniel Kleer

"I went to cactus club to have a beer and sure enough about 45 minutes later this woman called me and was just profusely apologizing," he said.

Kleer said he went back to the bikes to meet her and could tell she felt horrible. He said she also gave him $10 to pay for his beer. "It all worked out in the end," he said.

A Reddit user photographed Kleer's note Tuesday as well — and by that evening his note was number one post for Calgary's subreddit.

"I didn't even hear about it until the next morning when my brother texted me," he said.

Kleer said he only has one regret. "I would do it again," he said. "Just maybe not use the curse word."

The note left by Daniel Kleer on the two bikes locked together. REDDIT

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Restaurants get top honours

FOOD

City's newest culinary hot spots among best in Canada

Mathew Silver
For Metro | Calgary

Food lovers have reason to rejoice. Calgary boasts two of the top 35 best new Canadian restaurants, according to enRoute magazine's list of Canada's Best New Restaurants.

A panel of food and hospitality industry leaders conducted a nationwide taste-test of restaurants opened between June 2015 and June 2016, and revealed that the East Village's Charbar, and Bridgeland's Whitehall were among the best.

The list, which includes restaurants from Victoria to St. John, will be narrowed down to 10 restaurants in the November issue of the magazine.

For John Jackson, the owner of Charbar, landing on the list is a matter of passion.

John Jackson, owner of Charbar says that balance and passion are the most important ingredients for running a restaurant.
MATHEW SILVER/FOR METRO

"I think it's about creating a concept and cooking food that we are very passionate about."

Jackson, who was trained classically in French cuisine, says that the restaurant's concept is based on the wood-fired grilling tradition of Argentina, and features options for everyone.

"There is the ability to indulge, but there is also the diversity of the menu where you can eat really light and healthy and have that balance," said Jackson, who lists the porterhouse, tableside ceviche, and fugaza as his best dishes.

Jackson has even created a relationship with one of Argentina's best chefs, Fernando Trocca, who's restaurant Sucre was named as one of Latin America's best restaurants in 2014.

> **"I think it's about creating a concept and cooking food that we are very passionate about.**
> John Jackson

For Neil McCue, the head chef at Whitehall, being nominated was an accomplishment in itself.

"It's a huge thing to be honoured nationally. It's a cliché but it's the team and the people that put it together."

McCue has been back and forth between south London and Calgary over his 25-year career, earning a Michelin star and enRoute's Best New Restaurant in 2002.

His philosophy differed a bit from Jackson's.

"If you can stay consistent and stay true to your philosophy, it makes the customers happy."

Vote for your favourite restaurant in the people's choice category by visiting eatandvote.com

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Remembering Joey English

MMIW

Families to attend provincial meeting

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Stephanie English still hasn't buried her daughter, Joey, as Calgary police continue to search for parts of her body in an ongoing investigation.

"I don't want to be that statistic, a woman waiting 19 years for her daughter's parts to come back," Stephanie said, referencing the numerous indigenous family members whose daughters, sisters, aunts and mothers have gone missing or have been murdered.

"What's going on? I don't understand."

Stephanie will be attending a private, all-day gathering for the family members of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls on Saturday, organized by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations. Minister Richard Feehan will be in attendance.

The gathering was put together in response to the federal government's launch of its national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

Stephanie said the meeting is important for her to heal.

"More stories need to be heard," she said. "It feels like yesterday when I would walk Joey to school."

Joey was 25 when she went missing in early June. Stephanie said police didn't take her seriously when she reported the case.

On June 8, police discovered part's of Joey's body in Crescent Heights, deeming the death suspicious. The cause of death is still being investigated by police, as officers continue to search for her remains. Police have charged Joshua Weise with one count offering an indignity to human remains.

Stephanie said Joey was a caring and gentle person, hoping to pursue a career in nursing.

"She really loved her children, niece and nephew," she said. "She had dreams that she was in the process of doing."

The federal government's inquiry, which is will be complete by Dec. 31, 2018, will examine police practices and attitudes, child welfare and other social policies.

The biggest complaint by many victims is that there is hardly any communication between them and investigators.

Stephanie said police haven't been giving her enough updates, adding officers told her she could expect at least six months until they find Joey's remains.

"How am I supposed to leave the city, knowing my daughter's body parts are still here?" Stephanie asked. "I can't even pick up myself to move back home, or go back to school. That was my whole dream and purpose of being away from my reserve."

However, Joey's kids keep Stephanie fighting. She has become their guardian.

"These little ones," she said. "They're the pillar of what makes me want to fight more for them, especially in today's society.

"I don't want my grandchildren growing up and being that statistic: Just another native person gone missing."

> How am I supposed to leave the city, knowing my daughter's body parts are still here? Stephanie English

Stephanie English says her daughter, Joey, was a gentle soul who loved her children.
JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT

Former executive sued

The Alberta Motor Association has filed a lawsuit against a former executive, alleging he swindled $8 million from the organization and bought lavish homes and vehicles.

The lawsuit claims James Gladden misappropriated the funds dating back to at least 2013 while he was vice-president of information technology at AMA.

It alleges Gladden authorized fake invoices and wired payments to various banks in the United States and China.

"Mr. Gladden was provided with and exercised discretion and authority to authorize payments on invoices. As a result, the AMA was particularly vulnerable to any misuse by Mr. Gladden," said the statement of claim, filed last week in Edmonton.

"The investigation is ongoing and further instances of misappropriated funds may be discovered."

A lawyer for the AMA also appeared in court last week asking for an injunction. A judge agreed to freeze Gladden's bank accounts and assets, including a vacation home in Scottsdale, Ariz., a boat, two Porsches and a Maserati.

The suit also claims Gladden bought an extravagant home in southwest Edmonton and a downtown office building with the embezzled money.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **The investigation is ongoing and further instances of misappropriated funds may be discovered.**
> AMA statement of claim

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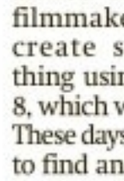
Film festival keeping it real

ENTERTAINMENT

In an era when most movies are digital, this is all celluloid



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Having just opened submissions for its 25th year, the Calgary $100 Film Festival really isn't about the budget anymore – it's about the love of film.

Specifically, the love of film stock, which is in rare supply these days.

See, most movies these days are shot digitally, but the requirements of the $100 Film Fest – which is the oldest film festival in the city – requires all the movies be shot on either Super 8 or 16mm film stock. It's likely the same stuff your grandparents used to create home movies before magnetic media rolled around.

> "It's not as intimidating as people might think."
> Kyle Whitehead

The festival originally aimed to get filmmakers to create something using four rolls of Super 8, which would cost about $100. These days, film is getting harder to find and costs have gone up, so it's really only the $100 Film Festival in name only.

"The people that tend to work on Super 8 and 16mm are experimental filmmakers," said Nicola Waugh, programming director. "Because they're a lot more focused on the process of film making. It's not about the budget, it's about the medium."

Why Film?

Many film directors will tell you it's the look. Film has a distinct look to it that, while not necessarily better, is much different that digital. It's grainy and old school. Some directors like Quentin Tarantino still shoot exclusively on film for that reason.

"There are a lot of creative effects or interesting processes you can put the film through technically, which aren't really available to people working in a digital process," explained Kyle Whitehead, a film director who has screened work at the festival several times in the past.

Whitehead works out of his own makeshift dark room, and said the physical aspect of it – cutting by hand and developing the reels, is why he continues to use it.

However, director Berkley Brady warns that it can take a long while to cut film. You're constantly editing and repairing the physical reel, and so those without a clear storyboard and organization skills can easily become lost. It's a lot different than moving around clips and naming files digitally, but it's worth it.

"Photography is about light, we live on a light planet and we're visual as people, I think there's a quality of life you get in film that you don't in digital," Brady said, adding the difference with film and digital is like painting with oils or acrylic. There's a very different feel.

Make a film

Super 8 was created as a home movie format, so although there's a lot to learn, Brady and Whitehead said that shouldn't stop anyone from just picking up a camera and shooting something.

"It's not as intimidating as people might think it is," said Whitehead. "The name is of the festival is the $100 Film Festival. Even today, Super 8 is still relatively cheap.

"If you're careful about what you shoot, you can still create a film for under $100 today. Go get a camera – cameras are plentiful and cheap."

The $100 Film Festival, being one of the few film-based festivals around the globe, accepts submissions from around the globe. There's no submission costs, and they even pay artist fees out of respect for the medium. For more information, visit 100dollarfilmfestival.org.

TOP: Berkely Brady created a Super 8 film that played live with local band The Basement Demons for the festival last year. COURTESY ARAN WILKINSON-BLANC

RIGHT: Kyle Whitehead sets up a film projector for a screening. He feels film stock best suits the experimental nature of his movies. COURTESY KYLE WHITEHEAD

BACKGROUND: Strips of Super 8 film from a project called Circles of Confusion. COURTESY KYLE WHITEHEAD.

WEEKEND EVENT LISTINGS

FRIDAY – Mock Parliament
Business and Professional Women Canada celebrates the centennial year of women's suffrage at its annual national convention.

The event will include lunch and a re-enactment of a famous mock parliament play that featured Canadian feminist and social activist Nellie McClung, followed by a keynote by Coun. Diane Colley-Urquhart.

The celebration takes place at the Clarion Hotel at 11:30 a.m.

SATURDAY – Festival Omatsuri
The sixth annual Calgary Japanese Festival Omatsuri takes place at the Max Bell Centre.

The one-day festival involves cultural activities like Japanese arts and crafts, sake tastings, anime presentations, kimono dressing demonstrations and a chance to see popular Japanese robot seals.

For more information, visit calgaryjapanesefestival.com

SATURDAY – The Alberta Hockey Show
Brought to you by the Calgary Hitmen, the first annual Alberta Hockey Show is a family friendly event for hockey enthusiasts.

You can visit vendors for the latest in hockey equipment, entertainment and collectibles.

The all ages event will also feature some big names in hockey.

For more information, visit albertahockeyshow.ca.

SUNDAY – Marda Gras
A take on Mardi Gras, Marda Gras takes places in various locations throughout the Marda Loop community.

The street festival includes food vendors, artisan booths and buskers. Also feature will be the annual Marda Gras pet pageant, to give Calgary's beautiful pets a chance to shine. For more information, visit mardagras.ca

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Storied King Eddy lives again

ENTERTAINMENT

Documentary tackles bar's history

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

On Aug. 11, 2004, the King Eddy closed its doors — but not for good. This year, it reopened as part of the National Music Centre. But the 12 years spent getting to this point were full of hard work by old Eddy regulars like Phil Dack. Now that journey has been chronicled by documentarian Laura O'Grady. Secret Calgary: Return of the King Eddy is now available through Telus Optik.

What is it about the King Eddy that made it work saving?

Dack: The atmosphere there was totally unique in Canada. This was something really special. One summer, I came back from a holiday and it had been closed down. But, there was no way anyone was going to close down my bar.

So me and a few friends decided to fight to keep it open. It was just too special to lose.

Why focus on the King Eddy's return?

O'Grady: We're in a fortunate position in that Telus Optik Local supports us as filmmakers to tell local stories in a different way.

> **It represented the best of the spirit of the city.**
> Documentarian Laura O'Grady

The National Music Centre was ramping up the new opening and my husband was a huge fan of the King Eddy. I knew it as a world-class blues joint, but as I went further, interviewing individuals who are the heart and soul of the Eddy … it really became apparent the story was much bigger than even the world-class musicians that played there.

It represented the best of the spirit of the city. The music joined everyone in a really special way.

When the doors closed, individuals like Phil refused say goodbye to it. They knew it was something special. They fought a long time to make it happen, and here we are — it's the largest piece of memorabilia in the National Music Centre's collection.

How does it feel having the King Eddy open again?

Dack: I was there on the night that it opened, it was about 11 p.m. It was raining outside. We didn't have any idea how it was going to feel, a brand new Eddy, 12 years later.

After a couple of hours of music, beer and goodwill — it mellowed into the old Eddy. I looked around and I saw all of these people have a great time and I realized, if it hadn't been for a bunch of us, nothing would be there. It's a fantastic feeling.

The King Eddy officially closed its doors in 2004, having stood in Calgary for nearly 100 years. It reopened this year as part of the National Music Centre. COURTESY GLENBOW MUSEUM

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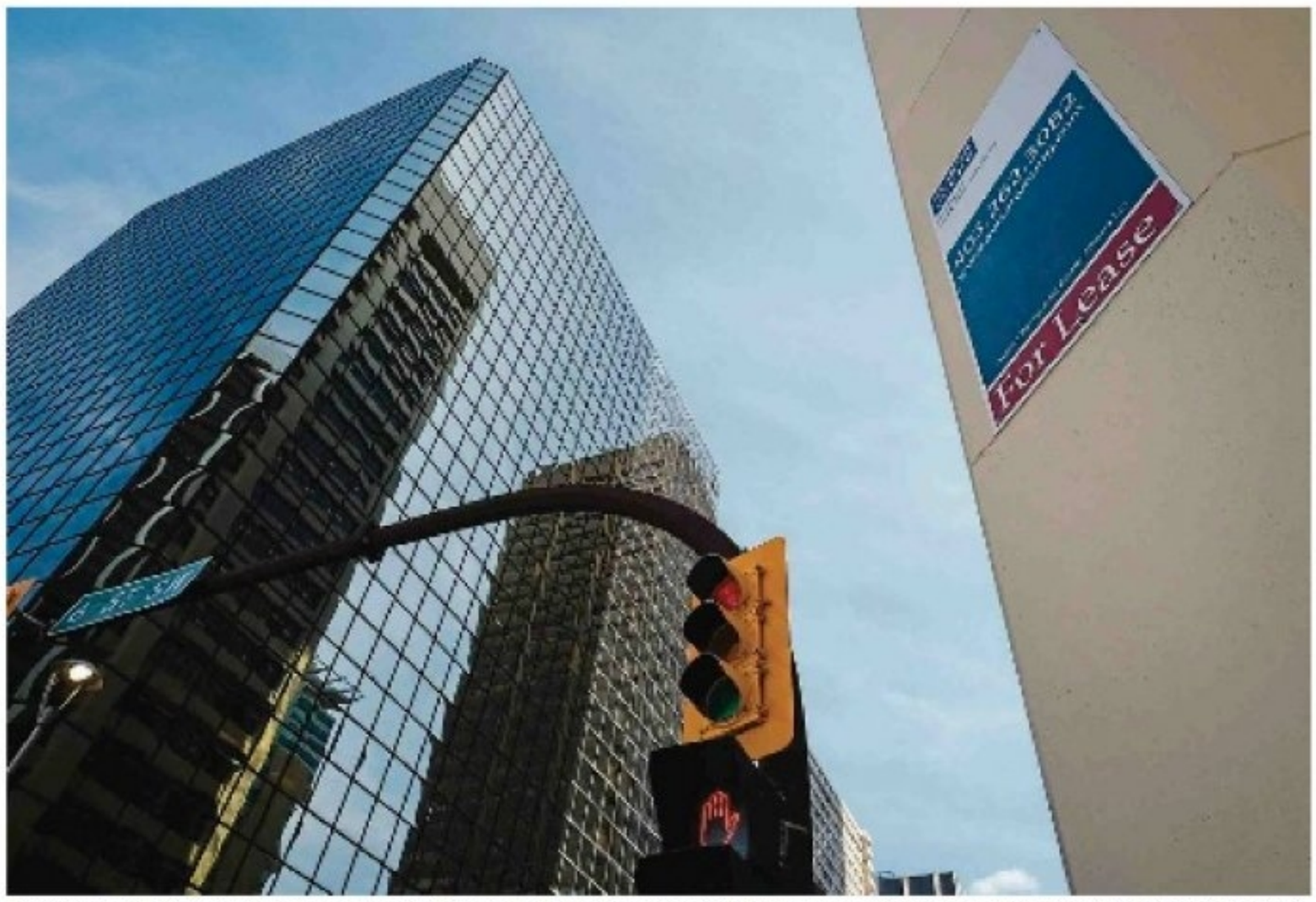

Downtown office space in Calgary is at an all time high. Vacancy reached 22.2 per cent in the second quarter, beating the previous record of 22.0 per cent set in 1983. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Real estate value drops

ECONOMY

Company's local property holdings downgraded

One of Canada's largest owners of corporate real estate has significantly slashed the value of its Alberta properties as Calgary hits a record high in downtown office vacancies.

Dream Office REIT (TSX:D.UN) said in its second-quarter results that it has written down the value of its Alberta holdings by $748.4 million this year, or 45 per cent, to about $930 million.

The real estate investment trust said it did that because the economic conditions in the province remain soft and it now believes the uncertainty and weakness in the Alberta office sector could be prolonged.

"Since the beginning of the year, it's become apparent that the theme for Alberta office real estate is lower for longer," said CEO Jane Gavan in an investor call Thursday.

She said Calgary has the highest office vacancy rate in the country, and with more buildings under construction that won't go down any time soon.

"Even if the economy recovers, we expect it's going to take some time for businesses to add people and to require more space," she said.

Calgary's downtown office vacancy rate hit an all-time high of 22.2 per cent in the second quarter, beating the previous record of 22.0 per cent set in 1983, according to commercial realtor CBRE.

CBRE said in its second quarter report that so far this year there's been a net increase of 1.35 million square feet of available downtown office space as oil and gas companies downsize because of the steep drop in energy prices.

It said it expects Calgary vacancy rates to climb even further as bankruptcies and mergers open up even more office space.

Edmonton's more diversified downtown office district hasn't been hit nearly as hard, with vacancy rates hovering around 13 per cent, said CBRE.

Dream Office said the value of its Alberta investment properties, which include the HSBC Bank Place in Edmonton and the Dominion Centre in Calgary, will remain challenged for the foreseeable future and their value could drop further.

Dream's share price closed Thursday down $1.67, or nine per cent, at $16.92.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INVESTIGATION

Fire whirl caused air tanker crash

A tornado-like blast of flames caused an air tanker to crash last spring while fighting a wildfire in northeastern Alberta, killing the pilot.

The Transportation Safety Board says the pilot could not see the "fire whirl" after making a low altitude drop of water and foam on the fire near Cold Lake on May 22, 2015.

Investigators say severe turbulence forced the nose of the single-engine Conair Air AT-802A float plane up, the plane rolled and then crashed.

The report says if pilots aren't trained to deal with the dangers of wildfires there is a risk they will fly into unsafe conditions.

It also found that not all types of restraint systems in planes protect pilots during severe turbulence.

The board says since the crash the Conair Group Inc. has trained its pilots about the dangers of flying near wildfires and has installed new pilot harnesses in AT-802A aircraft.

> The aircraft encountered a tornado-like event generated by the fire.
> Transportation Safety Board

"The investigation determined that the aircraft had encountered a tornado-like event generated by the fire, which is known as a fire whirl," The TSB said in a release Thursday.

"The aircraft's low altitude while fighting the wildfire made recovery impossible, resulting in impact with terrain." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Mooched maples returned

The Royale Brasserie is praising Calgary police for the return of two Japanese Maple trees that were stolen Wednesday night. The restaurant posted security footage of a man walking his puppy, who took a keen interest in the two trees outside the restaurants doors, stealing them for himself.

Calgary police were able to make an arrest in the case Thursday afternoon and returned the trees to their rightful home. STAFF

Oldest fashion faux-pas

EVOLUTION

Study asks if Neanderthals fell victim to lack of jackets

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Did Neanderthals die out because their human competitors were better fashion designers?

A recent study of a database of animal bones found at several sites across Europe shows that Neanderthals probably weren't making close-fitting winter clothing like parkas, and it could be a significant factor in the species' decline.

"Twenty years ago there was a big debate around whether early humans evolved from Neanderthals or whether they were people who migrated to Europe from Africa," said Mark Collard, an archaeology professor at Simon Fraser University who led the study.

40,000

The bones Collard and his team analyzed were between 40,000 and 25,000 years old.

The prehistoric Neanderthal man "N," left, with Wilma, another reconstruction of a homo neanderthalensis, at the Neanderthal museum in Mettmann, Germany in March 2009. MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"There is a consensus now that there was a wave of migration of humans out of Africa, through the Middle East and into Europe."

Archaeologists are now trying to figure out which differences between humans and Neanderthals led to one species thriving and the other becoming extinct.

The bones Collard and his team analyzed were between 40,000 and 25,000 years old, a period leading up to the last ice age when the climate would have been changing to be colder and drier. The researchers found that there were many more animal bones from wolverines, rabbits and foxes in the human sites compared to Neanderthal sites.

While some of the animals may have been used for food only, the composition of animal bones makes Collard fairly confident that humans were making winter clothing while Neanderthals were not. For instance, it's known that people living in the Arctic commonly used wolverine pelts to make the ruff of a parka: the combination of long and short hairs make it less likely the fur will become frozen around the wearer's face.

The research gives credence to a previous hypothesis that while humans were making specialized winter clothing, Neanderthals only wore fur cloaks. Being able to make parkas would have given humans an edge over Neanderthals in being able to hunt for longer periods and in colder weather, Collard said.

It shouldn't be assumed that Neanderthals weren't making winter clothing because they were less intelligent than humans, Collard said. It could have been a cultural difference: there are examples of human populations who live in harsh climates without making or wearing much protective clothing.

CONTROVERSY

Ford's 'crack video' released to public

Three years after sparking a firestorm of controversy, a notorious video featuring Rob Ford smoking crack cocaine was made public on Thursday, a move that angered the late Toronto mayor's family and drew mixed reactions from the public.

The so-called "crack video" was released after the conclusion of a court case involving Ford's friend and driver Alexander (Sandro) Lisi, who faced an extortion charge related to efforts made to retrieve the clip.

Some people called publishing the video "tasteless" and shameful, while others said they respected that media outlets were simply doing their job.

A further few said the video of the controversial politician, who died on March 22, 2016 from cancer at age 46, was simply "sad."

"Rob had a disease like millions of other people have diseases in our country and he went to go get help; he admitted it," Doug Ford told local TV station CP24. "They just want to rehash it and trample all over Rob's grave." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former Toronto mayor Rob Ford surrounded by the media at city hall. **A notorious video featuring Rob Ford smoking crack cocaine was made public on Thursday.** AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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Success of terror showdown in doubt

Questions remain over efficacy of peace bond and intelligence

An intense nationwide "race against the clock" after a tip from the FBI about a would-be terrorist led the RCMP to fatally confront Aaron Driver on a quiet street in Strathroy, Ont.

When it was all over, the terror suspect had detonated an explosive he was carrying, wounding a cab driver before being shot by a police sharpshooter. It's not clear if the explosion or police bullets killed the 24-year-old, if he died instantly or later in the hospital. His target is still unknown.

Senior RCMP brass told the chilling tale Thursday at an Ottawa news conference. But so many questions remain.

Was this a successful security operation hailed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that, as RCMP deputy commissioner Mike Cabana said, prevented the loss of many more lives?

Or was it a failure of court orders — that prosecutors had agreed to hoping to restrict Driver's terrorist ambitions — and of Canadian security agencies who had to rely on the Americans for the intelligence that thwarted a plot?

One of the dominant questions: how did a man under a restrictive court order obtain bomb-making materials and communicate — to someone, somewhere — a threatening video.

The FBI "came into possession" of a two-minute video by a black-hooded, masked, unknown assailant, said Cabana. The Americans transmitted the video and a photo to the Canadians around 8:30 a.m. Wednesday.

"Oh Canada, you received many warnings," said the balaclava-clad figure in the video. "You were told many times what will become of those who fight against the Islamic State. You watched as your allies in Europe and America had their bullets and bombs returned back to them. You saw bodies of the filthy French laying in their own streets."

Terrorism suspect Aaron Driver was killed in a confrontation with police in Strathroy, Ont. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The RCMP's tactical analysts and CSIS scanned massive amounts of data against the grim video and photo — likely using software that can scan facial and voice patterns — and the whereabouts of terror sympathizers on Canadian watch lists. By 11 a.m. the RCMP-led integrated security team thought it had a match: Aaron Daniel Driver.

Driver was already under a judge-ordered peace bond with strict conditions meant to limit his movements, travel, Internet communications and cell use.

> **We thirst for your blood.**
> Aaron Driver, in a video Mounties received from FBI

Amarnath Amarasingam, a prominent researcher on Islamic extremists in Canada, who tracked Driver's activity online and through interviews and email exchanges, prepared a court report after Driver's arrest last year. He concluded that although Driver was "definitely radicalized," he wouldn't become an actual threat to the public.

"I was definitely worried about him, but he struck me as someone was sort of engaged intellectually (with radical Islam)," he said.

Amarasingam speculated that it's possible the peace bond, in cutting him off from his newfound online community of like-minded extremists, actually served to further alienate and destabilize him. "It's possible that him being plugged in was actually a tempering force," he said.

Cabana refused to speculate on Driver's mental health but did talk about peace bonds.

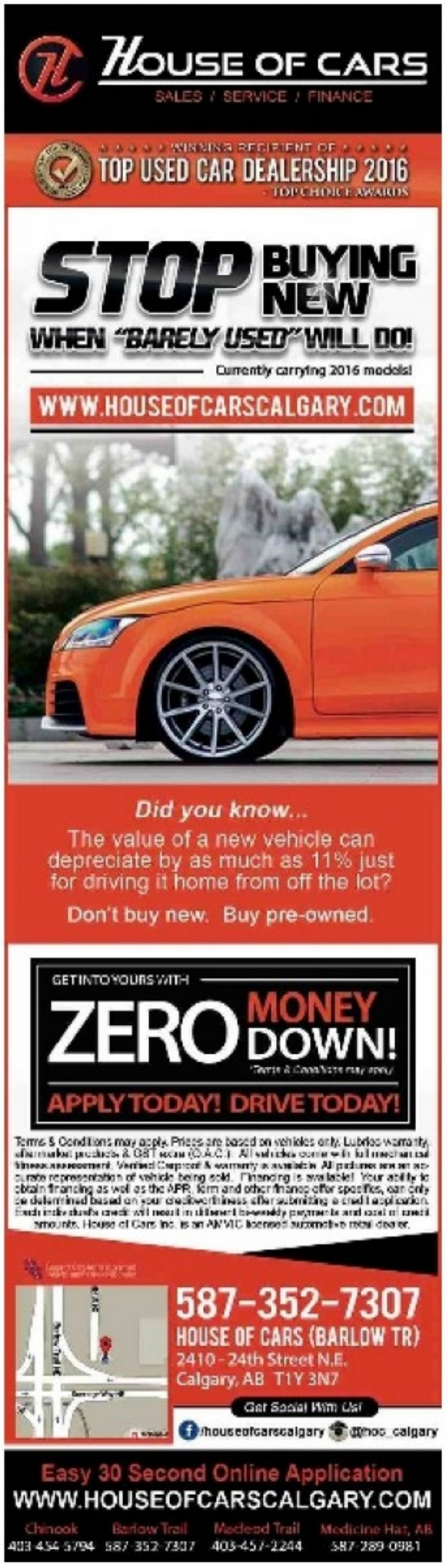
"As it's clearly being demonstrated by this case here, when individuals have these kinds of intentions ... there are no conditions that can be put in place that will prevent them from taking action." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Timeline of a thwarted terror plot

A timeline in the case of Aaron Driver, suspected of planning terrorist activities who was killed in a confrontation with RCMP:

1. December 2014: RCMP receive a complaint from a member of the public about social media posts under the alias Harun Abdurahman and open an investigation.
2. Feb. 20, 2015: Driver gives an interview to The Toronto Star under that alias where he talks about his support of Daesh, adding "the government already knows who I am ... I know they're monitoring me."
3. April 2015: RCMP say Driver is in contact with a youth in the U.K. who was later arrested for his role in an Islamic-inspired terror plot targeting Australia.
4. May 2015: RCMP say Driver is communicating with two well-known members of Daesh, but investigators can't establish the nature of the communication.
5. June 4, 2015: Manitoba RCMP swarm a Winnipeg home where Driver is staying. RCMP say they find a recipe to make homemade bombs on his computer. Driver is taken into custody.
6. June 5, 2015: RCMP apply for a peace bond against Driver.
7. Feb. 2: Driver's lawyer and the Crown agree to a peace bond. The bond acknowledges there are "reasonable grounds to fear that he may participate, contribute directly or indirectly in the activity of a terrorist group." Driver takes up residence in Strathroy, Ont.
8. 8:30 a.m., Wednesday: RCMP receive a tip from the FBI, which found a martyrdom video made by someone "clearly in the final stages of planning an attack using homemade explosive devices." The attack was supposed to take place imminently, targeting an urban centre during rush hour. RCMP identify 24-year-old Driver as the suspect several hours later.
9. 4 p.m., Wednesday: RCMP say Driver is seen getting into a cab at a home in Strathroy. Police swarmed the vehicle. They say Driver detonates a device in the back of the cab. Driver dies during the altercation with police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



PUBLIC SERVICE

Feds vow to examine payroll problems

The top public servant at the department overseeing the troubled Phoenix payroll system says officials are trying to get to the root causes of issues with the new system in order to restore the trust of tens of thousands of federal workers.

The government has been trying to deal with cases of workers who haven't been paid for months, including new workers and students, or those coming back from maternity leave or receiving a promotion who find their paycheques lighter than they should be.

Marie Lemay, the deputy minister at Public Services and Procurement, said after months of trying to resolve pay issues, officials are turning their attention to figuring out the root causes of the glitches that have affected more than 80,000 public servants.

Some of those who have been overpaid because of the system problems, or those who received emergency payroll advances, have found subsequent paycheques almost entirely clawed back to recoup to mistaken payments. Lemay said the government is starting to spread out repayments out over the coming months to avoid a lump sum coming off any single cheque and allay workers' concerns that taking the advances will make their financial situation worse.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHEQUE CRISIS

No pay
There are 274 new reports of employees not receiving any pay.

Leave mixups
There were also 2,646 cases since mid-July of people coming or going on leave with paycheque problems.

Stephen Trump of Toronto (no relation to Donald) takes every opportunity he can to remind people that Trump's grandfather's last name was actually Drumpf. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Distancing from Donald

U.S. ELECTION

'Real' Trumps point out they're no relation to GOP nominee

There is a small, quiet colony of Trumps living in Canada, and some say they're not impressed with the famous Donald that shares their name.

Stephen Trump, a property manager in Toronto, said he takes every opportunity to remind people that — as comedian John Oliver reported earlier this year in a segment on his HBO show — Republican nominee Donald Trump isn't even a real Trump. Some reports say Trump's grandfather, Frederick Drumpf, changed his name after immigrating to the United States from Germany.

"There's no way possible for us to be related, because he's not a real Trump," Stephen Trump said.

"If someone changed their name to your last name, and they're saying all these terrible things, how would you feel?" he said. "You would take every opportunity to point out that they are not a real relative of yours, because they have artificially changed their last name to match yours."

He said his family — who are really Trumps — originally comes from the Netherlands, where they were called "von Trump," but they eventually made their way to England and dropped the "von."

Stephen Trump said he doesn't get comments about his name very often, because the joke is so obvious.

"Most people, when they realize my last name, they're aware that they're on well-trodden ground," he said. "They sort of give me a look, and leave the joke unsaid."

Perhaps unsurprisingly based on his reaction to Donald's last name, Stephen Trump said he's not a fan of the Republican nominee. He predicts that, if elected, Donald Trump would declare bankruptcy on American debt, spiralling the world economy into chaos. He points to the candidate's history of filing for bankruptcy in his business career for back-up.

> **There's no way possible for us to be related, because he's not a real Trump.**
> Stephen Trump

Jenn Trump, 29, said she's heard cracks about Donald Trump her whole life, and it's gotten old. She said that throughout her childhood, people asked if they were distant relatives.

"At some points I think I may have been like, 'Yeah, it would probably be pretty cool to (be related to him),' but at this point I don't really think so," she said.

"He's kind of a p—."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shoe comment sparks passenger complaint

TRANSIT

Ottawa bus rider 'taken aback' by driver

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

OC Transpo is looking into its second dress code complaint in a week, after a customer was called out for wearing high heels Thursday morning.

Shaunette Simon said she had to run for the westbound 103 at St. Laurent station because it was hidden behind a long queue of buses.

It was pulling out to leave before reaching the actual stop, Simon said.

The driver did let her on, but according to Simon the driver rolled his eyes, "looked me up and down," and told her, "'if you weren't wearing high heels, you'd be able to run for the bus.'"

Simon said she was "taken aback" and embarrassed in front of her fellow passengers.

"I was like, 'Where do you get off telling me what is appropriate attire for me to be going to work in?'" Simon said.

"I wear heels every day.

"Why am I running for the bus other than you're not at the stop?"

She filed a formal complaint, which OC Transpo's assistant general manager Troy Charter said staff will investigate.

It's the second time this week drivers have been caught commenting on customers' clothing.

An 18-year-old was kicked off an 86 bus last Sunday after the driver said her crop top and jogging pants were "vulgar."

Still, Charter said these remain "a rare occurrence" on the transit system, and when they do happen, they're taken seriously.

"Whenever we get a complaint like that its something we need to be concerned about," said Charter.

OC Transpo doesn't have a customer dress code – nor should it, transportation manager John Manconi stressed earlier this week.

"We're not here to judge people on how they dress," Manconi said.

Simon said she's seen drivers make similar comments to other passengers — usually women — but had never spoken up until now.

> **We're not here to judge people on how they dress.**
> OC Transpo transportation manager John Manaconi

Shaunette Simon said she ran for the bus Thursday morning before the driver mocked her for wearing these high heels.
COURTESY SHAUNETTE SIMON

APPOINTMENTS

Grits eye all of Canada for high court judge

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will ask those tasked with developing a short list of candidates for the Supreme Court to include judges from Atlantic Canada, but that does not mean someone from the region will end up getting the job.

"The next appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada will not necessarily be a person from Atlantic Canada," Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould said Thursday during an appearance before the House of Commons justice committee.

The Liberal government announced last week that a new non-partisan advisory board will choose potential new judges to sit on the Supreme Court, a move characterized as a way to bring more transparency — and less partisan sparring — to the process.

Justice Thomas Cromwell, who is from Nova Scotia, will retire next month. The convention would have been for Cromwell to be replaced by another judge from Atlantic Canada.

The Liberals came under criticism last week when they indicated the seven-member advisory board, chaired by former prime minister Kim Campbell, would consider candidates from across the country.

Wilson-Raybould pointed out on Thursday that in his mandate letter to Campbell, Trudeau asked the advisory board to include Atlantic Canadians on its short list of three to five potential candidates and that it consider the custom of regional representation on the high court as it sorts through the names.

"I recognize that regional representation is important," Wilson-Raybould said.

"So too is diversity. So too is ensuring that we have the most qualified jurists that will fill the vacancy," she said, adding the expects a significant number of jurists from the Atlantic region to put their names forward.

Conservative justice critic Rob Nicholson said that did not go far enough and suggested it would not go over well with the 32 Liberal MPs who swept the region in the federal election last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trump entertains notion he could lose

U.S. ELECTION

Republican nominee takes a more humble approach

Straying from his trademark bravado, Donald Trump acknowledged Thursday that his presidential campaign is facing challenges and could ultimately fall short — a rare expression of humility by the Republican presidential nominee.

Trump's most explicit concession came as he pleaded for support at a gathering of evangelical ministers, where Trump observed he was "having a tremendous problem in Utah."

The same day, the billionaire celebrity acknowledged that his lack of political correctness could cost him the election if Americans reject his blunt approach.

I meant (Obama is) the founder of ISIS. I do.
Donald Trump

"We're having a problem," Trump told the ministers, adding that the next president could get to nominate up to five high court justices. "It could cost us the Supreme Court."

After trouncing 16 challengers in the Republican primary, Trump is encountering worrying signs as his campaign moves into the general election. Democrat Hillary Clinton's lead over Trump in national polls has widened in recent days, while a number of fellow Republicans have declared they won't support their own party's presidential nominee.

Trump's self-awareness was a marked departure from his usual tenor on the campaign trail.

On Thursday, Trump cited a poll that actually showed him a few points behind Clinton and arguing the race between them was close. Asked by CNBC how he planned to reverse the advantage that Clinton has, Trump said he simply planned to do "the same thing I'm doing right now."

"At the end, it's either going to work, or I'm going to, you know, I'm going to have a very, very nice, long vacation," Trump said.

Earlier this week Trump caused a major stir with comments about the Second Amendment that were perceived as advocating violence against Clinton, and found himself facing questions yet again after declaring Wednesday that President Barack Obama was the "founder" of Daesh — a claim that's patently false.

He brushed off conservative radio commentator Hugh Hewitt's attempt to reframe Trump's observation as one that said Obama's foreign policy created the conditions in Iraq and Syria that allowed Daesh to thrive.

"No, I meant he's the founder of ISIS. I do," Trump said, using another acronym for the extremist group. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Greenland shark NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/GETTY IMAGES

SCIENCE

Greenland shark is now oldest vertebrate

In the cold waters of the Arctic, a denizen of the deep lurked for centuries. Now scientists calculate that this female Greenland shark was the Earth's oldest living animal with a backbone.

They estimated that the grey shark, part of the species named after Greenland, was born in the icy waters roughly 400 years ago, and died only recently. That conclusion puts the entire species at the top of the longevity list.

Using a novel dating technique, an international team of biologists and physicists estimated the age of 28 dead female Greenland sharks based on tissue in their eyes. Eight of the sharks were probably 200 years or older and two likely date back more than three centuries, according to a study published Thursday in the journal Science.

Until now, that record holder was a bowhead.

The oldest of the Greenland sharks examined was nearly 16.5 feet long (5 metres) and estimated to be 392 years old when it was caught around four years ago. But that calculation comes with a huge margin of error — plus or minus 120 years — due to the newness of the dating technique, said Nielsen, a marine biologist at the University of Copenhagen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Burnt vehicles following a fire in Vitrolles, southern France, on Thursday, which devastated 3,300 hectares. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

France douses fires

DEVASTATION

Country's second-largest city Marseille escapes harm

Firefighters in southern France brought in reinforcements from across the country on Thursday to help smother the last flames and douse dry brush after wind-whipped wildfires devastated thousands of acres and destroyed homes but spared Marseille, the nation's second-largest city.

There was no letup in the high southern winds, known as the Mistral, raising the risk of new bursts of flames after the worst blaze in recent years was contained.

Meanwhile, a fire broke out Thursday in the Pyrenees-Orientales region, southwest of Marseille.

Multiple fires started up on Wednesday, west and north of Marseille, and President Francois Hollande said some were of criminal origin. "We will find those who started them," he said, but did not elaborate.

A man behaving suspiciously in Vitrolles, one of the towns most ravaged by flames, was detained for questioning, according to French media.

Fires were burning in Portugal and Spain. Two arrests were made in the deadliest of more than 100 fires in Portugal, on the island of Madeira, that killed three people.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said four people were seriously injured — a resident of the Marseille region and three firemen who battled a blaze on Wednesday in the nearby Herault region. More than 3,000 hectares of vegetation were destroyed in the Marseille area, the Herault and the Pyrenees-Orientales regions.

Residents of the region north of Marseille, especially Vitrolles and nearby Pennes-Mirabeau, woke up to take an accounting of the scorched and still-smoking landscape and their losses. More than 1,000 had spent the night in gymnasiums.

"Today, at this time, the fire is, as we say, mastered. That means that it is not expanding any more. There are no visible flames," said Vice-Admiral Charles-Henri Garrier, commander of Marseille's firefighter battalion, speaking near Vitrolles, just 25 kilometres north of Marseille.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ELSEWHERE

In Spain, authorities said five major fires were raging in the northwestern region of Galicia, with 10 others under control.

In Portugal, firefighters also battled multiple fires for a sixth straight day. A total of 186 wildfires were counted Wednesday on Portugal's mainland alone and on Thursday, 12 were burning out of control.

SYRIA

Russia strikes Daesh-held city of Raqqa

The Russian military sent long-range bombers to strike a series of Daesh targets in the group's de facto capital of Raqqa on Thursday — a fresh round of airstrikes that Syrian activists said killed at least 20 civilians and came amid Turkish calls for greater co-operation with Moscow against the extremist group.

The offer by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu to co-ordinate with Russia on operations against Daesh followed a meeting between the Russian and Turkish leaders earlier this week in which they agreed to mend ties.

Relations between the two nations, which back opposite sides in Syria's civil war, soured after Turkish air force jets downed a Russian warplane on the Syrian border in November. Russia retaliated by deploying long-range air defence missile systems to its base in Syria, 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of the border with Turkey and imposing an array of economic sanctions.

Cavusoglu also said Turkey would resume airstrikes against IS targets in Syria, months after they were suspended amid the row with Moscow. "On the issue of Daesh, we have made a call to Russia. We said we have a common enemy which we can struggle against together," Cavusoglu said.

Russia's deputy foreign minister, Mikhail Bogdanov, welcomed the Turkish initiative.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CIVILIANS

A local activist group, Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently, said at least 20 civilians were killed in the assault. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 24 civilians were killed, along with six others whose affiliation were not confirmed.

DALLAS

Marchers ignore police warning

A small group of demonstrators took to the streets in downtown Dallas on Wednesday night to protest police use of force against black people, despite the police chief's request that they stay away out of concern for officers' safety.

Police Chief David Brown told the organizer of the demonstration that holding such events downtown poses a tactical threat to officers. The group behind Wednesday's protest was the same one that planned the July 7 protest and march that ended in the sniper shooting deaths of five law enforcement officers.

Brown posted an email exchange with organizer Dominique Alexander, founder of the Next Generation Action Network, to a police blog Wednesday a few hours before the protest was set to begin.

"What's more important than our officers (sic) safety... cancel it and don't schedule anymore in the downtown area... I insist," Brown wrote in an email that included the ellipses.

Just before the protest was set to begin, Alexander was arrested outside City Hall.

A police spokeswoman said Alexander was issued a criminal trespass warning and arrested on unrelated outstanding warrants for failure to appear. The outstanding warrants against Alexander involve about $5,000 US in tollway tickets from adjoining Collin County, said Damon Crenshaw, the network's vice-president. Kim Cole, an attorney for Alexander and his group, said she and Alexander believed the warrants were resolved a year ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. federal government refuses to reclassify pot

LEGISLATION

Marijuana on dangerous list despite being legal in 25 states

The Obama administration has decided marijuana will remain on the list of most-dangerous drugs, fully rebuffing growing support across the United States for broad legalization, but said it will allow more research into its medical uses.

The decision to expand research into marijuana's medical potential could pave the way for the drug to be moved to a lesser category. Heroin, peyote and marijuana, among others, are considered Schedule I drugs because they have no medical application; cocaine and opiates, for example, have medical uses and, while still illegal for recreational use, are designated Schedule II drugs.

The Drug Enforcement Administration said the agency's decision came after a lengthy review and consultation with the Health and Human Services Department, which said marijuana "has a high potential for abuse" and "no accepted medical use." The decision means that pot will remain illegal for any purpose under federal law, despite laws in 25 states and District of Columbia that have legalized pot for either medicinal or recreational use.

Advocates have long pushed for the federal government to follow suit.

"If the scientific understanding about marijuana changes — and it could change — then the decision could change," DEA acting administrator Chuck Rosenberg wrote in a letter to the governors of Rhode Island and Washington, who sought the review of marijuana's classification in 2011. "But we will remain tethered to science, as we must, and as the statute demands. It certainly would be odd to rely on science when it suits us and ignore it otherwise."

Rosenberg said designating marijuana as a Schedule I drug does not necessarily mean it is as dangerous as other drugs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANKS ARE OK

- Thursday's ruling has no impact on banking rules for legal marijuana businesses.
- In 2014 the Treasury Department gave banks permission to do business with legal marijuana operations with conditions, including that they try to make sure that customers complied with state regulations.

LONGEST CIGAR CUBAN GOING FOR SECOND WORLD RECORD Cuban cigar roller Jose Castelar Cairo, known as "Cueto", rolls a new giant cigar in Havana on Wednesday. Cueto is attempting to break his previous mark of 81.80 metres long, established in 2011, and to reach the sixth Guinness Record of his career for the world's largest cigar. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

HEALTH

Nigeria reports first two cases of polio in years, WHO says

Nigeria has reported the first two cases of polio after more than two years, in an area newly liberated from Islamic extremists who attacked polio vaccinators in the past, the government and the World Health Organization said Thursday.

Nigeria's removal from WHO's list of polio-endemic countries in October had meant the entire African continent was free of the crippling disease.

Two children have been paralyzed by polio in northeastern Borno state in two different local government areas that had been cut off by Boko Haram's Islamic extremist uprising, Health Minister Isaac Adewole said in a statement Thursday night.

"Our overriding priority right now is to rapidly boost immunity in the affected areas to ensure that no more children are affected by this terrible disease," he said.

He ordered the deployment of a national emergency response team. WHO said it was working with the government to urgently prevent more children from being paralyzed, with large-scale immunizations and other measures.

It was unclear how accessible the two areas are. The United Nations last month suspended aid to newly liberated but still dangerous areas of Borno after Boko Haram ambushed a humanitarian convoy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Six killed after bus falls off Crimea mountain road

Russia's top investigative agency says that at least six people died when a bus fell off a mountain road in Crimea. The Investigative Committee's branch in Crimea said the bus travelling from Sudak to Kerch veered off the road and fell 50 metres into a ravine Thursday. It said four passengers, including a child, died on the spot and another two later died in a hospital.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORTH CAROLINA

Judge frees man who spent 28 years in jail

A judge on Thursday ruled that a North Carolina man who was convicted of murder as a teenager and was imprisoned 28 years ago did not get a fair trial and allowed him to go free.

North Carolina Superior Court Judge W. Douglas Parsons ruled Thursday that there was not enough evidence to justify 43-year-old Johnny Small's conviction for a 1988 murder.

The judge said he didn't see proof of Small's innocence, but was persuaded that prosecutors must decide if there was enough evidence to put him on trial again.

Small was released from a Wilmington prison and arrived at his cousin's manufactured home just before nightfall Thursday.

"I don't want to sleep in no room. I want to be in a big space," Small said.

He will be under electronic house while charges are pending. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADVANTAGE Ford
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Flint water rebounds from lead mess

Steve Hepler of the Michigan National Guard preparing to load water into a vehicle at a water distribution center in Flint, Michigan. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

MICHIGAN

Researchers find no trace of toxin in half of city's supply

Virginia Tech researchers who exposed the lead problem in Flint, Michigan, gave an upbeat opinion of the city's water quality Thursday after finding no detectable levels of the toxin in nearly half of 162 homes tested in July.

Marc Edwards still urged residents to drink only filtered tap water or bottled water while the system heals itself. But at the same time, he said "the wind is kind of at our back" as long as the water continues to be treated with phosphates to reduce corrosion, a critical step that was missing when Flint used the Flint River for 18 months.

"This is nearing the end of the beginning of the end of the public health disaster response," said Edwards, an expert in environmental engineering. "Flint water now looks like it's entering a range that's considered normal for other U.S. cities."

Edwards and other researchers spoke at a news conference in Blacksburg, Virginia. He is credited with blowing the whistle a year ago on high levels of lead in Flint's drinking water, although it took several more weeks for Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and federal regulators to finally acknowledge that the city of roughly 100,000 residents had a disaster.

It's not clear when state and federal regulators will declare that unfiltered tap water is safe to drink.

Even low levels of lead in blood can affect IQ, the ability to pay attention and performance in school, according to the government. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILIPPINES

Killings of drug suspects rise to 525

The number of suspected drug dealers killed in Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown has risen to more than 500 in just over a month, police said Thursday, in an alarming campaign that sparked protests and plans for a Senate investigation.

Since July 1, 525 drug suspects have been killed in clashes with police while more than 7,600 suspects have been arrested in more than 5,400 anti-narcotics assaults, the national police's Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management said in a report. More than half a million have surrendered to authorities, according to police.

Some local news agencies have reported considerably higher death tolls, some as high as nearly 1,000, in counts that included drug suspects killed by unidentified attackers since Duterte emerged as the president-elect following the May 9 elections.

Police officials say those killed had put up a fight, although critics argue that circumstances indicate many of the suspects were illegally killed or died because police did not follow established procedures in dealing with crime suspects.

Duterte has encouraged law enforcers to go hard on criminals and has assured them he would back them up and pardon them if they are convicted of committing human rights violations while battling criminals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filipino student activists hold slogans as they call for an end to extrajudicial killings during a rally on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Officials: 2 dead, many hurt in Maryland apartment blaze

At least two people died and dozens, including three firefighters, were injured after an explosion and large fire at an apartment complex in a Maryland suburb of Washington and searchers are looking for others who were still unaccounted for, authorities said Thursday.

Two people were found dead in the ruins of a four-story building, but have not yet been identified, said Montgomery County Police Assistant Chief Russ Hamill.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia tries 14 over deadly crane collapse

Fourteen people have gone on trial in Saudi Arabia over a crane collapse in Mecca that killed 111 pilgrims and injured hundreds more just days before the start of the annual hajj pilgrimage last year, local media reported Thursday.

State-linked newspapers said six Saudis, including a billionaire, as well as two Pakistanis, a Canadian, a Jordanian, a Palestinian, an Egyptian, an Emirati and a Filipino are on trial.

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Assange to face grilling

LONDON EMBASSY

Ecuador ready to set date for Swedish police investigation

WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ecuador said Thursday it's ready to set a date for Swedish prosecutors to question Julian Assange inside its London embassy — a potential breakthrough in the years-long international impasse over the WikiLeaks founder.

Assange is wanted for questioning by Swedish police over a rape allegation stemming from his visit to the country in 2010. He has not been charged and denies the rape claim and other allegations made against him by two women. In June 2012, he sought shelter in Ecuador's embassy in the British capital and has been holed up there ever since.

Ecuador announced last year that it had agreed to a Swedish proposal to interview Assange at the embassy, but no interview has taken place.

Ecuador's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that a date for the questioning in the embassy would be set "in the coming weeks."

Swedish Prosecution Authority spokeswoman Karin Rosander said Sweden handed over a formal request to interview Assange in January, and a reminder in June, and received Ecuador's reply on Tuesday.

"It means that a questioning can make the case go forward," Rosander told The Associated Press. "This is decisive to be able to take a decision whether to formally charge him or not."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENDANGERED SPECIES

California foxes rebound from threat

Not long ago, foxes native to the Channel Islands off the California coast teetered on the edge of extinction.

They have rebounded to the point where U.S. wildlife officials on Thursday removed three subspecies of island fox from the roster of federally endangered species, hailing their comeback as the fastest recovery of any mammal listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The diminutive foxes that roam San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz islands were placed on the endangered list in 2004 after their populations were nearly wiped out by golden eagles.

Scientists credited the swift recovery to an effort to relocate predators and breed foxes in captivity so they can be reintroduced to the wild.

"We're ecstatic that we've reached this point so quickly," said Steve Henry, field supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's office in Ventura.

About the size of a house cat, the island foxes — with their grey coats and reddish-brown ears — are only found on six of the eight Channel Islands where they have lived for thousands of years.

Three fox subspecies native to California's Channel Islands were removed from the list of endangered species Thursday, in what federal officials have called the fastest recovery of any mammal listed under the Endangered Species Act. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Populations have returned to self-sustaining levels ranging from an estimated 700 foxes on San Miguel Island to 2,100 foxes on Santa Cruz Island.

Long inhabited by Native Americans, the Channel Islands later became home to European explorers, ranchers, farmers and the military. Activities on the islands allowed nonnative animals such as pigs, sheep, deer and elk to flourish. Golden eagles migrated there after native, fish-eating bald eagles were wiped out by the dumping of the now-banned chemical DDT off the coast.

By 2000, there were only 15 foxes each on San Miguel and Santa Rosa islands and 55 foxes on Santa Cruz Island.

The race to save the foxes began several years before they were listed as endangered. The wildlife service partnered with the National Park Service, Nature Conservancy and Catalina Island Conservancy to hatch an aggressive plan that included moving golden eagles to Northern California, reintroducing bald eagles to the islands, vaccinating foxes and breeding them in captivity.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Hundreds of people queue to vote at Kanyama Basic school voting station during Zambian general elections on Thursday in Lusaka. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Zambia goes to polls

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Violence mars election in country with history of peace

Zambians formed long lines at polling stations on Thursday in a tight election race for president and parliament that has been marred by violence between rival factions.

There were no immediate reports of unrest during voting in a country whose peaceful transitions of power in the past have been held up as a democratic model in Africa. However, officials were anticipating tension after polls closed Thursday evening and after the final announcement of results, expected within 24 hours. A winner must get more than 50 per cent of the vote to avoid a runoff election.

The leader of the African Union observer mission and former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan said he was happy with the process so far.

"Zambians are known to be peaceful. We encourage to continue maintaining that standard," he said.

President Edgar Lungu of the ruling Patriotic Front party faced businessman Hakainde Hichilema of the opposition United Party for National Development. Lungu won the last election with 48 per cent of votes, taking office in early 2015 after the death of President Michael Sata. Hichilema, a close second in that election, called the vote a sham.

Allegations of election irregularities dogged the current race. Campaigning was suspended for 10 days last month in the capital, Lusaka, after a supporter of Hichilema's party was shot dead amid a protest over police cancelling a political rally.

In addition, international rights groups have expressed concern over the alleged stifling of some local media. The government closed the country's largest privately owned newspaper, The Post, in June over unpaid taxes of about $6 million, but the paper's owner said it was meant to silence him before the vote. The paper has been a vocal government critic.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ECONONY

Zambia's economic woes have contributed to the unease. Plunging prices for Zambia's main export, copper, have closed mines, leaving thousands unemployed. Economic growth has been roughly cut in half, and the country this year asked the International Monetary Fund for help.

IN BRIEF

Spelunking group missing

Crews are searching for an American student and two Japanese students from Arkansas State University who went missing inside of a cave, officials said.

Two crews are searching for the students in Blowing Cave near Cushman, 110 miles north of Little Rock. Cave-mapping experts are assisting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thai seaside resort town bombing kills one: Reports

Two small bombs exploded Thursday night in Thailand's popular seaside resort town of Hua Hin, leaving at least one person dead and 20 others injured, according to Thai media.

The fatality was described as a female street food vendor.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLORIDA

Zika looms over back-to-school season

Florida's caseload of Zika spread by Miami mosquitoes has risen to 25, and U.S. health officials continue to warn pregnant women to avoid the infection zone despite the governor's assurances that the area of concern is shrinking.

Florida's Department of Health says active transmission has been only happening in a 1-square-mile area encompassing Miami's Wynwood arts district.

Scott's office also announced that the health department has declared four blocks in the southwest corner of Wynwood to be clear of infections as preventative measures continue, in addition to another 10-block section cleared last week.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, however, still advises pregnant women to avoid the entire neighbourhood. "All I can say is the travel advisory is still in effect," CDC spokesman Tom Skinner said.

Zika is a mosquito-borne virus that only causes mild, flu-like symptoms in most people. But it can cause severe brain-related defects, including disastrously small heads, if women are infected during pregnancy.

Back-to-school day is Aug. 22 in Miami, and while students returning to class in Wynwood will be allowed to wear pants and long-sleeved shirts that don't match their school uniforms, they still can't bring mosquito repellent to campus.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said at a school board meeting Wednesday that "aggressive application" of repellent should be done at home, not at school where some students may be allergic to the spray. Some 4,000 students attend six schools in the Wynwood arts district.

The Miami Herald reports that state health workers will be stationed at each school to check for mosquito breeding sites and provide parents with repellent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. MINT

Rare pennies go for pretty prices

Two rare one-cent coins from the earliest days of the U.S. Mint have sold for a pretty penny.

The copper coins, both dating to 1792, went for a combined total of $869,500 at the auction held Wednesday in Anaheim, California.

One of them, known as the "Birch Cent," sold for $517,000. The other, known as the "Silver Center Cent," went for $352,500.

Eric Bradley, spokesman for Heritage Auctions, said that while the sales fell somewhat short of the combined $1 million the auction house projected they would go for, organizers are still pleased with the result.

"We're looking at two coins that sold for more than 43 million times their face value," Bradley said, "so you can't be disappointed in that."

The names of the buyers have not been released and they may choose to stay anonymous.

The coins have historical significance that goes beyond their collectible value, representing "the transition in American history from the colonies to a new republic," Bradley said.

"These are coins that were developed and thought up by the Founding Fathers who were trying to differentiate themselves from British coinage and British rule," he said.

The words "Liberty Parent of Science & Industry," which are engraved on both coins, also show how the United States was trying to distance itself from the religious persecution and monarchy it associated with Britain, Bradley said.

The origin of the Silver Center Cent was also referenced in a letter from Thomas Jefferson to George Washington, and it is among the very first coins ever struck by the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, Bradley added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This "Birch cent" is one of two rare 1792-dated coins made during the early days of the United States Mint.

TRAVIS AWALT/HERITAGE AUCTIONS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUDAPEST FESTIVAL-GOERS joke on Shipyard Island, the venue of the 24th Sziget (Island) Festival in Northern Budapest, Hungary, on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2016. The venue is one of the biggest cultural events of Europe offering art exhibitions, theatrical and circus performances and above all concerts in eight days. More than 1,500 programs and performers from over 60 countries will entertain the expected 450 thousands visitors representing 98 countries of the world.

ZOLTAN BALOGH/MTI VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARIJUANA

Potty yields pot find

Police in the southern Oregon community of Rogue River say a man walking through a park discovered a portable toilet filled with marijuana plants.

The agency posted a photo on social media Wednesday, saying it's the largest seizure of pot the department has ever made.

Marijuana grows are common in southern Oregon, which has some of the nation's best conditions for outdoor cultivation.

Chief Ken Lewis said Thursday that police still don't know how the pot got there. He says it could be anything from a pick up point to a disgruntled citizen making a statement about all the marijuana grows.

Lewis said a public works employee checked the toilet three hours before the discovery was made and it was empty. People playing tennis on a nearby court saw nothing suspicious.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aspiring terrorist sentenced to 12 years

MISSISSIPPI

Undercover FBI discovered woman's Syria travel plans

A Mississippi woman who once sought to disguise a planned journey to join Daesh as her honeymoon was sentenced by a federal judge Thursday to 12 years in prison on a terrorism charge.

Vicksburg native Jaelyn Young broke down in heavy sobs during her sentencing by U.S. District Judge Sharion Aycock. Young pleaded guilty in March to one count of conspiring to provide material support to a terrorist organization.

Young had faced up to 20 years in prison.

Her parents pleaded for leniency at Thursday's hearing. Young, amid sobs, said she was ashamed of her actions.

Her fiance, Muhammad Dakhlalla, pleaded guilty March 11 to a similar charge and is set to be sentenced Aug. 24. Prosecutors have said Young, who converted to Islam while studying at Mississippi State University, had prodded Dakhlalla into the plan.

The two were arrested in 2015 before boarding a flight from Columbus, Mississippi, with tickets for Istanbul, Turkey.

"I found the contacts, made arrangements, planned the departure," Young had written in a farewell letter to her family. "I am guilty of what you soon will find out."

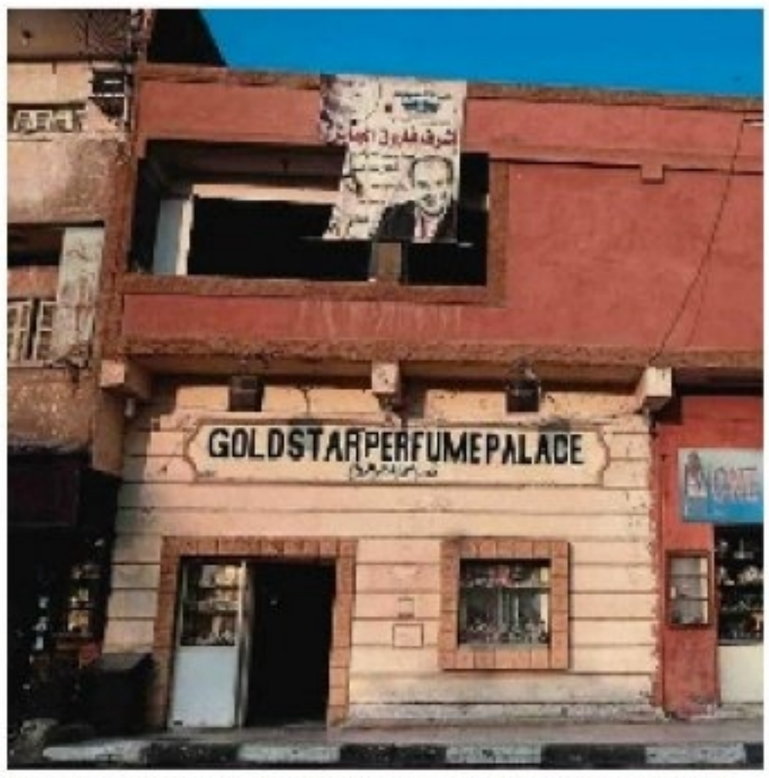
Young and Dakhlalla were among a number of people arrested around the country for Daesh sympathies. Like many, authorities said, they had developed views supporting the Islamic State in part by watching online videos and were arrested after social media posts attracted the attention of the FBI.

The daughter of a school administrator and a police officer who served in the Navy reserve, Young is a former honour student, cheerleader and homecoming maid at Vicksburg's Warren Central High School.

The two were arrested in August 2015 before they could board the flight from Mississippi with tickets for Istanbul purchased using her mother's credit card without permission, according to court records. Authorities said the couple had contacted undercover federal agents in May, seeking online help in travelling to Syria. Both remained jailed in Oxford since their arrests.

At one point, Young said she planned to camouflage the couple's journey as a honeymoon, but later dropped that idea.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Souvenir shops run out of business near the entrance gate of the Giza Pyramids. Egypt's economy has been struggling since 2011 with high inflation, foreign currency shortages, and lack of tourism. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IMF, Egypt agree on $12B loan

ECONOMY

Cash meant to stabilize currency, reduce deficit

The International Monetary Fund said Thursday it will grant Egypt a $12 billion loan over three years to help the Arab world's most populous country mend its ailing economy following years of unrest.

The IMF said the loan, which is subject to approval by its executive board, comes in support of a government reform program that aims to stabilize Egypt's falling currency, reduce the budget deficit and government debt, as well as boost growth and create jobs.

"Egypt is a strong country with great potential but it has some problems that need to be fixed urgently," it said in a statement, adding that planned government measures include tax increases and cuts in energy subsidies. Egypt said earlier this week it would raise electricity prices by a least a quarter, part of plans to eliminate the subsidies altogether by 2019.

Egypt's economy has been struggling since the 2011 popular uprising that overthrew longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak, with high inflation, foreign currency shortages, and lack of tourism and investment.

Cairo called on the IMF, the U.S.-based global lender of last resort, after having exhausted billions of dollars in aid from wealthy Gulf Arab nations recently humbled by low oil prices — and now turned off by persistent bureaucratic hurdles to investing in Egypt.

Egypt hopes the loans can generate momentum that will boost growth, reassure potential investors and give the country enough leeway to restructure the economy. The budget deficit currently stands at nearly 12 per cent of gross domestic product and the current account deficit is at almost 7 per cent.

The government's economic program says it will focus on helping the poor, and try to ensure that any economic rebound brings benefits to the entire population of 91 million and not just elites, as has happened during past periods of economic growth.

Economists welcomed the IMF's announcement, as well as the government's acknowledgement that it must address longstanding structural problems despite potential short-term discontent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS

Ethics panel investigating congressman

A congressional review panel says there is "substantial reason to believe" that a Republican congressman from Texas may have been perceived to be acting in his own financial interest when he offered an amendment to benefit auto dealers last year.

Texas Rep. Roger Williams is an auto dealer, and he has come under scrutiny by the House Ethics Committee over an amendment he offered to a wide-ranging transportation bill that would have allowed auto dealers to rent out vehicles even if they're subject to recall. Williams has said the amendment was intended to address recalls aimed at trivial defects, but critics said it would apply more broadly.

The House Ethics Committee's Republican chairman and senior Democrat said in a joint statement that the panel is reviewing a referral from the independent Office of Congressional Ethics, an outside panel that reviews ethics complaints against House members.

The review panel said in a 43-page report released by the ethics committee Thursday that "there is substantial reason to believe that Rep. Williams' personal financial interest in his auto dealership may be perceived as having influenced his performance of official duties — namely, his decision to offer of an amendment to the surface transportation legislation."

The report said Williams' actions may have violated House rules and standards of conduct regarding conflicts of interest. The House ethics panel will rule on that after finishing its investigation. The ethics panel also released a joint statement from Williams and his auto dealership denying wrongdoing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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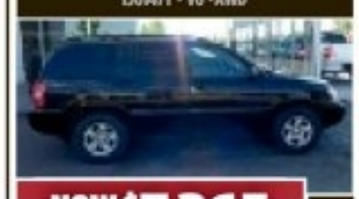
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Heroes fail to save Cineplex

BOX OFFICE

Failed movies reflected in early summer numbers

The dogs of summer were aplenty at the box office in the early weeks of Hollywood's biggest movie season — and even a raft of superheroes couldn't save Cineplex Inc.

One failed movie followed another during the April to June film slate and that left Canada's largest movie exhibitor with more empty seats in its theatres.

"We thought it was, from our perspective, a lot lighter," chief executive Ellis Jacob said Thursday of the second-quarter results where profits dropped 72 per cent.

It's not the kind of results the company looks for in the weeks that typically mark the warm-up to a bombastic summer where eager moviegoers are supposed to show up in droves.

Such ambitious prospects were hard to find this year as duds like the latest instalment of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," the critically panned "Alice Through the Looking Glass" and underperforming comedies "The Boss" and "Central Intelligence" quashed the hopes of another record-breaking season.

People react to a movie at Cineplex's new 4D auditorium. One failed movie followed another during the April to June film slate and that left Canada's largest movie exhibitor with more empty seats in its theatres. COURTESY CINEPLEX

"You name it, there were a lot of titles," Jacob said of the flops which knocked Cineplex's profits down to $7.2 million versus $25.5 million the same time last year.

It was always going to be difficult for Cineplex to outdo its early summer performance of 2015 when the roster of marquee superheroes in "Avengers: Age of Ultron" stole the show. Other films on that summer's slate became some of the biggest box-office draws of all time, including the carnivorous relics in "Jurassic World" and the buff street racers of "Furious 7."

Together they gave hope to Hollywood executives that audiences were thirsty to fork out money to engage with familiar specimens on the big screen.

This summer's "Captain America: Civil War" didn't encourage quite as much enthusiasm. While the action flick delivered the biggest percentage of business for Cineplex, it fell short of Marvel's "Ultron" ticket sales last year. Other superhero showdowns in "X-Men: Apocalypse" and "Batman v Superman" proved that even timeless franchises can be hurt by weak reviews and poor audience response.

Overall attendance at Cineplex fell 14.4 per cent to 16.9 million patrons for the three months ended June 30.

Viewers spent more, however, as Cineplex noted that concession spending grew 4.4 per cent to $5.74 per patron.

Cineplex has also convinced more people to upgrade their tickets to premium-priced theatres, which helped boost box-office revenue to $9.62 per patron, an increase of 17 cents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRTC

Canadians pay more for mobile

A CRTC report says Canadians pay some of the highest prices for mobile phones compared to those living in the other G7 nations and Australia.

Canadians paid the most for entry-level wireless service of 150 minutes, shelling out an average of $41.08, according to the study. Nordicity surveyed service providers in six Canadian cities as well as some in the other nations.

In Germany, where entry-level service is the least expensive, people pay $17.15 on average, according to the report.

Canadian services claimed the second- or third-highest price for the five other higher-service options studied, like unlimited talk and text with five GB of data.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR	77.04¢ (+0.49¢)
TSX	14,796.06 (+21.02)
OIL	$43.49 US (+$1.78)
GOLD	$1,350 US (–$1.90)

NATURAL GAS: $2.55 US (–1¢)
DOW JONES: 18,613.52 (+117.86)

CREDIT CARDS

Read fine print, expert warns students

As thousands of Canadian students head off to college and university this fall, many will find themselves bombarded with credit card offers.

But experts caution that it's important to be prudent or risk harming your credit score, which could affect your ability to land a mortgage, purchase a car or secure a loan years down he road.

Jackie Rosen from rate comparison website RateSupermarket.ca says it's common for credit card companies to offer incentives, such as free T-shirts and other goodies, to lure students into signing up.

"You need to be really careful and read all the fine print before you sign up for any credit card," says Rosen.

"Number one is always, always read the fine print before you sign up for anything, because you don't know ... if you're going to get an extra service you don't need."

Those services can end up costing more in fees, says Rosen. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro SCIENCE

Your essential daily news

Scientists have sequenced the genes of three fungi threatening the global banana crop, in hopes of halting a **bananapocalypse**.

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE HEATSTROKE

It's hot out there in many parts of Canada. And when the mercury passes 30 and keeps on going, and high humidity prevents sweat from drying, there's a risk the body's system for keeping itself cool will be overwhelmed. The result can be life-threatening **hyperthermia** (a.k.a. heat stroke), especially among the elderly, unwell and people who for some reason have to be outside. Here's how it works.

SOURCES INCLUDE: N ENGL J MED, VOL. 346, NO. 25

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

How not to be taken in by the tooth fairy

It's been a tiring week for the skeptical and science-minded.

Thanks to swimmer Michael Phelps,everyone is talking about cupping — an alternative medical practice supported by nary a shred of evidence.

Yet there are some published papers that say cupping works. They're pretty much all junk. But even with a trained eye, junk science can be hard to differentiate from the real thing. Nevertheless, I have a few junk-spotting tricks to share. Here's a partial list.

First: Does a claim (i.e. "cupping effectively treats pain") appear in a scientific paper (and not just a quote)? If so, does the publication have a good reputation? Look at its **impact factor**, the average citations per paper. The higher the factor, the more trusted the journal. Sometimes I search the title or publisher alongside "predatory journal" to rule out scientific mischief.

Second: Look at methods. A paper should never try to prove something works, but rather present evidence showing it works better than a placebo or standard therapy. Look for the words **double-blind randomized control trial**.

People studying and trying things like cupping are usually already convinced — intensifying the **placebo effect**. There's no way to blind a study like this: If you're being cupped, you know it.

Third: Sniff test. Even with good methods, a study can be junk. You can measure whether leaving a tooth under a pillow on a weekday generates more tooth fairy money than a weekend and get good data. But you haven't learned anything about the tooth fairy. The **mechanism** is not probable. That's at work in many studies of quack remedies.

Fourth: If I'm stumped I phone a friend: a relevant, trusted scientist who was not part of the research. I ask them to walk me through the paper and evaluate it. Look for media articles that do this for you. If you can, make some science friends of your own. There's nothing better.

Science Question? Tweet @genna_buck

NEWS

Your week in science

HENDRIK GOLTZIUS/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

GRUESOME GREECE
A dig on Mount Lykaion — the legendary birthplace of Zeus — has turned up the skeleton of an unlucky 3,000-year-old teenager. Researchers believe the boy may have been a human sacrifice because of the way he was buried. Ancient writers like Plato describe such rituals. Legends say people who ate the flesh of such hapless chaps would become a wolf for nine years.

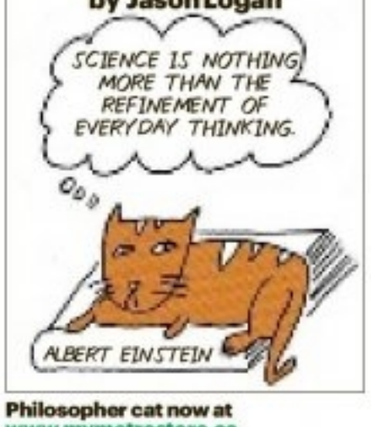
GALACTIC TAN
According to a new study in Astrophysical Journal, ten-trillionths of the light that hits you when you're sunbathing on the beach comes from distant stars other than our sun.

SOUND SMART

DEFINITION
Homeostasis is the fairly constant internal state (such as a constant body temperature) your body works to maintain despite changing outside factors. Sweating during hot weather helps cool you off and maintain **homeostasis**.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
I'm worried about Dorothy messing up her **homeostasis** and getting heat exhaustion from so much time in the hot tub. Her sweat isn't drying and cooling her off.

PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan



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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Not for family consumption: Raunchy animated tale Sausage Party features Brenda the hot dog bun (Kristen Wiig), her boyfriend Frank (Seth Rogen), and other foods.
CONTRIBUTED

For those who like dirty 'toons

SAUSAGE PARTY

Food porn you won't see on the Food Network

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Hot on the heels of family-friendly cartoons like Zootopia, The Secret Life of Pets and Finding Dory comes an animated movie that definitely isn't for the whole family… unless it's the Manson Family.

The high concept of Seth Rogen's NSFW Sausage Party was, I think, best summed up by twitter user @ByChrisSmith who wrote, "So that Sausage Party trailer... Toy Story for food with swears?"

It's the kind of food porn you won't see on the Food Network. "We started to think 'What if food had feelings?' said Rogen after a sneak preview at the South By Southwest Film Festival. "That really is what inspired the whole idea."

The story begins at a supermarket called Shopwell's. Frank the Sausage (voice of Rogen), his hot dog bun girlfriend Brenda (Kristen Wiig) and all the other foods — including Mr. Grits (Craig Robinson), a tomato (Paul Rudd) and Teresa the Taco (Salma Hayek) — live in hope that one day a customer will choose them. When they find out what happens after the customer takes them home, however, they fight to avoid their fate.

R-rated and raunchy, Rogen says he showed an early cut to Borat star Sacha Baron Cohen. "Sausage Party appalled him in some ways," said Rogen, adding that Cohen, cinema's Prince of Provocation, called it "the craziest thing I've ever seen in my life."

Someone who might not have been surprised by Sausage Party is Ralph Bakshi, a legendary animator who once said, "You know it's working if you're making movies you don't want your mother to see."

Bakshi began his career working for Terrytoons, home to cartoon characters like Heckle and Jeckle and Mighty Mouse but left TV to make first animated film to receive an X-rating from the MPAA. Loosely based on a character created by cartoonist Robert Crumb, who later disavowed the film, 1972's Fritz the Cat is a trippy counterculture flick about a streetwise feline who smokes dope and has run-ins with the Hell's Angels and the Black Panthers. Extremely controversial — New York Times critic Vincent Canby wrote, "(There's) something to offend just about everyone" — it became the first independent animated film to gross more than $100 million at the box office.

More adult animation came with the R-rated Heavy Metal. An anthology made up of eight stories bound together by an intergalactic traveller described as the sum of all evil.

Both Fritz the Cat and Heavy Metal were successful enough to spawn sequels that tried, and failed, to recapture the success of the originals.

When asked if there might be a sequel to Sausage Party, Rogen said, "That would be dope. All we do are franchises now."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Sausage Party	★★★
Pete's Dragon	★★★★
Florence Foster Jenkins	★★★★
The Infiltrator	★★
Equity	★★

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INTERVIEW

New doc looks at the issues threatening elephants

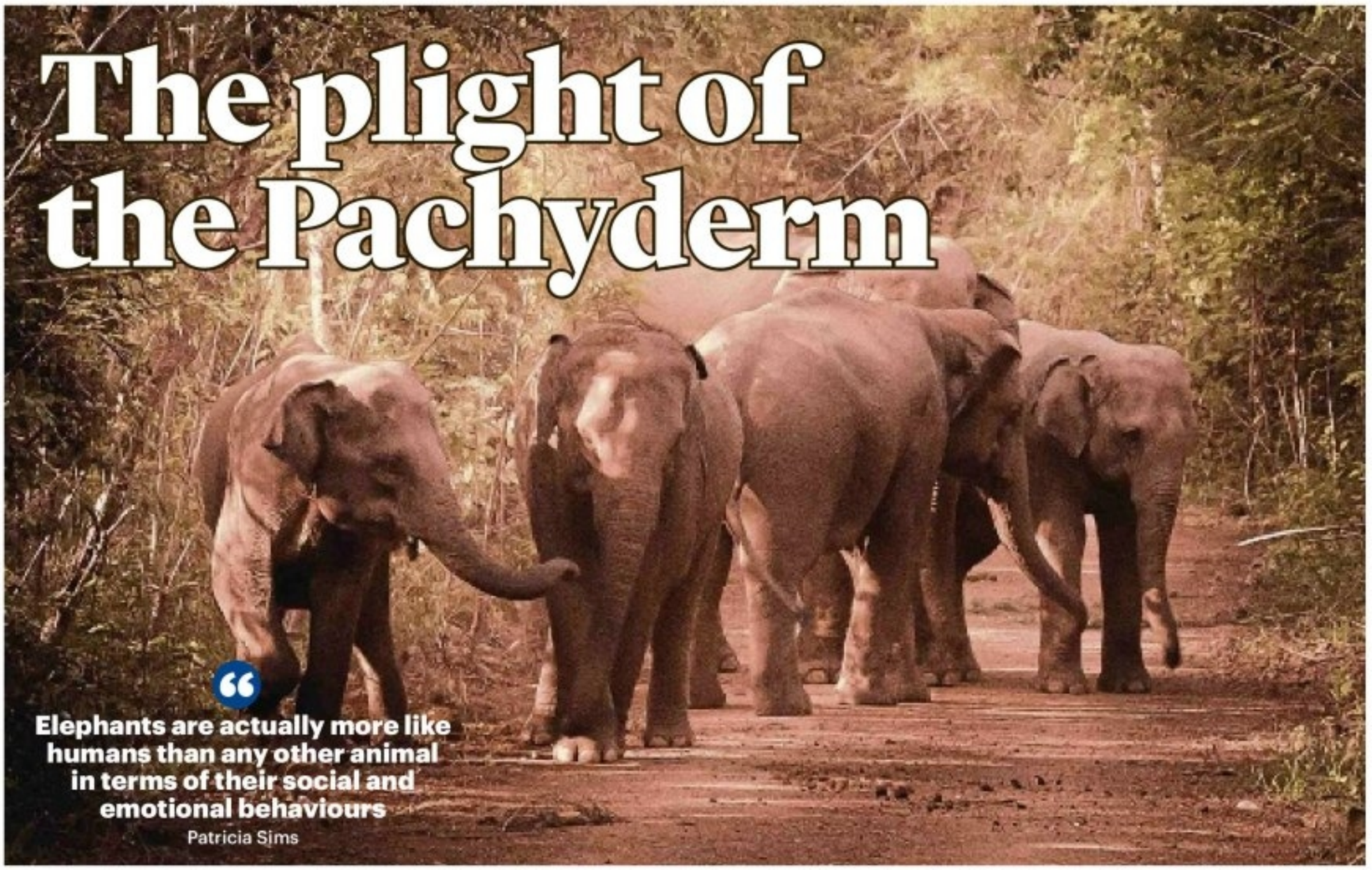
Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

It seems like most causes have their own special commemorative day, but Patricia Sims believed so passionately that elephants deserved their own anniversary she created one.

"I guess I've always had a thing for big, interesting, smart animals," laughed the Canadian filmmaker and co-founder of World Elephant Day.

"When I started to learn about all the elephant issues, I felt we needed to consolidate all of that under one umbrella on one day to put everybody's focus towards this reality for elephants (and) ultimately, what it means for us."

Celebrating its fifth year on Friday, Sims is marking the anniversary with the debut of her emotional documentary film When Elephants Were Young — a look at the issues threatening the endangered mammals and, in particular, the bond between a compliant pachyderm and its proprietor in Thailand — especially when the mammoth servant gets released back into a wild sanctuary.



"It's a sad story but it has a happy ending," insisted Sims of the film's persuasive presentation of the plight of Asian elephants, said by some to be extinct within 30 years due mainly to loss of habitation. "Not every elephant can go back to the wild obviously (but) at this rate, there just won't be any space for them to live and to exist."

Sims hopes her William Shatner-narrated documentary will be as powerful at building awareness and action as World Elephant Day has been since its introduction half a decade ago.

In that short span of time, the day of observance has forged partnerships with 100 conservation organizations and continues to enlighten an ever-increasing number of individuals around the world to the many issues accelerating the depletion of the extraordinarily intelligent elephant.

"Elephants are iconic so for many people they define the best of what wildlife and the natural world is (and) they're actually more like humans than any other animal in terms of their social and emotional behaviours," said Sims, adding that her film further highlights that connection between simple citizens and the gentle giants.

"I think people have become more aware that if we lose elephants, we're going to be next — there's so many similarities."

ELEPHANT FACTS

- The Asian elephant range has shrunk by over 70 per cent in last 50 years.
- There are less than 4,000 elephants remaining in Thailand where over 100,000 roamed at the start of last century.
- One of three Asian elephants left in the world is a captive animal.
- Research suggests that captive elephants suffer long-term depression and drastically shortened life spans.
- Elephants are helpful creatures: "Elephants that are reintroduced are not related to each other (yet) they reorganize themselves in a wild family group or social herd," said Sims of the success of reintroducing captive pachyderms to the wild. "I found it amazing that it could happen and that they would help each other — that's the coolest thing." source: WORLDELEPHANTDAY.ORG

Patricia Sims is the filmmaker behind When Elephants Were Young. CONTRIBUTED

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IN THEATRES AUGUST 19

Anna Gunn, who describes new film Equity as a suspenseful thriller, is rapidly becoming one of the female power players in the industry . SUPPLIED

Gunning for a genre reversal

INTERVIEW

Anna Gunn on why Equity is not Wall Street for women

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

"I've been waiting for a role like this for many, many years," admitted Anna Gunn while recently discussing her portrayal of a high-powered investment banker in the new thriller Equity.

A progressive film entirely written, produced and directed by female talent, Equity isn't just a Wall Street for women, it's turning the long-traditions of the finance genre-film and flipping it on its head by reversing the roles most-often reserved for money-hungry hunks.

"It's not a chick flick, it's not a movie just for women," said Gunn.

"It's a taut, suspenseful Wall Street thriller that happens to feature female stars and female characters so it's very refreshing.

"It's important to see this world from the female point-of-view because people think of it as a male-dominated field, which frankly it is," said the 48-year old star. "However, there are also incredibly strong (women in it)."

The Emmy Award-winner points in particular to Barbara Byrne — one of the finance world's top power-players.

To prepare for the movie, Gunn met the legendary investment banker (who also helped fund the feature) and borrowed many of her qualities and personal experiences for the part.

"She really became the template for this character," added Gunn, who insists the more she learned about the female dynamic and history on Wall Street, the more she saw parallels of inequity in the entertainment field as well.

"It's the same thing in Hollywood but what I am hopeful and optimistic about is that there are richer roles for women than there has ever been and that's hopefully going to move into the future."

It does seem that the times-they-are-a-changing slightly in Hollywood.

Although Gunn has been fortunate to land powerful female characters in recent TV shows like Breaking Bad and HBO's classic western Deadwood, the thespian experienced many years of auditioning for mediocre matrons before rising to become one of her own industry's power players.

"There's been a lot of girlfriend roles (or) a woman in jeopardy," laughed Gunn, adding when she didn't get a part she was often told she was 'too sophisticated.'

"I thought sophisticated was great but it was kind of a code word for being maybe too overpowering. That was a time when there was still a worry about the woman overshadowing the male character."

> I just enjoy women and characters who are complex, strong and have something to say. I really feel that if we want gender roles or perceptions to change, then we have to keep shining a light on the conversation
>
> Anna Gunn

TV BRIEF

JLo to take on role of Queen of Cocaine for HBO

Jennifer Lopez is set to star as late drug lord Griselda Blanco in an upcoming HBO biopic about the woman known as The Godmother and the Queen of Cocaine. Lopez tells The Hollywood Reporter in a statement that she has "been fascinated by the life of this corrupt and complicated woman for many years." Lopez will also produce the film.

Blanco was killed in Colombia in 2012. She was among the first Colombian women to traffic cocaine to the United States in the 1970s and 1980s.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FESTIVAL NEWS

Jackie Kennedy film up for TIFF prize

The Jacqueline Kennedy biopic Jackie, starring Natalie Portman, will compete for a $25,000 jury prize at this year's Toronto International Film Festival.

The Pablo Larrain film — which also stars Peter Sarsgaard, Greta Gerwig, and Billy Crudup — follows the first lady after U.S. President John F. Kennedy is murdered.

It's competing in the festival's international Platform program, which also includes the world premiere of Canadian Inuk filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk's Maliglutit (Searchers), a kidnapping-murder tale set in Nunavut, circa 1913.

Also having its world premiere is the Canadian drama Those Who Make Revolution Halfway Only Dig Their Own Graves by Mathieu Denis and Simon Lavoie. It follows four 20-somethings from Quebec who engage in vandalism.

Natalie Portman as Jackie Kennedy. CONTRIBUTED

The second-annual Toronto Platform Prize "champions director's cinema from around the world."

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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

I was approaching ecstasy: There were no questions, no one to judge me shovelling gravy-soaked fries into my mouth. Then I heard the pitter-patter of little feet.

It's not often that I get home at 2:45 a.m., remove my bra, settle into the couch with an order of poutine — traditional, obviously — and tune up the first Sex and the City movie. But I did last Saturday.

I was at a bachelorette party for a dear friend earlier on. It was good, clean fun — as in a cheese platter and prosecco, rather than strippers — because a couple of weeks before her party the bride-to-be found out that she was pregnant with her second child.

That's why, just before midnight, when one of the six women in our group suggested we go dancing, I was fairly certain our guest of honour would tenderly touch the miracle of life inside of her and laugh off the suggestion.

But she was game. Before I knew it, we were descending the stairs into El Convento Rico, a club on College Street known for drag queens and Latin music. I was wide-eyed as I watched men grind up behind women. Every time I detected a waft of heavy cologne or saw a silk shirt unbuttoned to the navel revealing thick, gold chains, I tried to get my friends' attention as if to say: Look! This stuff actually exists! It was like being in a waking fairy tale, but hotter, and with a techno-dance version of Justin Bieber's Sorry as our soundtrack.

We stumbled out after last call, and before jumping in a cab, I made a pit stop at Smoke's Poutinerie.

That brings us back to the couch, where I was approaching ecstasy: There were no questions, no one to judge me shovelling gravy-soaked fries into my mouth. It was alone time, emphasis on alone.

THE MOVIE: Sex and the City

THE MEAL: Smoke's Poutinerie

Then I heard the pitter-patter of little feet down the stairs. "You're home!" Simon said, wearing nothing but his underwear and a night guard.

"What are you doing up?" I asked nervously, shielding my poutine like a tigress protecting her cub. "You should go back to bed."

"Sex and the City! Move over, girl!" Simon said.

"But this is my special time!" I pleaded.

"You know, I always felt that they should've played the music from Platoon when Big doesn't show up to his wedding," he said.

"You can stay if you promise to be quiet."

"Did you notice that Carrie is constantly reading a New Yorker?" he said. "You can stop hiding your poutine. I ate an entire bag of Chicago mix popcorn tonight."

I continued eating, with trapidation.

"Jennifer Hudson has an ideal body in this movie, if you ask me."

"I didn't."

"That she lost weight after this movie is an American tragedy. Smith Jared's body truly is remarkable, don't you think? Do you think he's related to Jon Bon Jovi? Steve is probably the best character on the show," he paused. "Have you Googled where that Mexican resort is yet? We should stay there," he continued, using my phone for research.

When the movie ended, I brushed my teeth. When I returned to the scene of the couch, Simon had started the second SATC movie. I grabbed the remote and turned it off.

Someone had to show a little restraint.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

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3 Things to know about the new Pete's Dragon

There's more galumphing Great Dane than scaly mythic beast about endearing Elliot, the massive green-furred winged dragon at the heart of Disney's latest live-action-CGI mix. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 It's less corny than the original

Related only in the boy-and-his-dragon concept to the 1977 cornball version, Pete's Dragon is less visually awe-inspiring than similarly themed 2016 release The Jungle Book but steadily tugs heartstrings more effectively.

2 It's emotional

Director David Lowery (Ain't Them Bodies Saints) opens the film on a sombre note, as tragedy separates 5-year-old Pete from his family, leaving him alone in the forest. His encounter with a curious dragon is the first of several scenes that hang on Lowery's ability to convey a child's sense of wonder.

3 It's set in a simpler time

Lowery sets the film in the '70s, with touch-tone phones and records on the turntable (there's even a few bars of Leonard Cohen's So Long, Marianne), the freedom from digital distractions welcome.

Sony hack didn't tame Seth Rogen

INTERVIEW

Sausage Party again pushes the limits in Hollywood

A little less than two years ago, Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg's North Korea comedy, The Interview, spawned the hack of Sony Pictures and a crisis unlike any previous in Hollywood. The experience hasn't done much to tame them.

In the crudely funny but not crudely animated R-rated comedy Sausage Party, Rogen and Goldberg are again pushing the limits of today's risk-averse Hollywood — and Sony is still backing them.

"That experience in no way made us more timid, I don't think. If anything, it showed how this (expletive) can really hit the mark in ways that you never imagined it would," says a chuckling Rogen.

"But I would probably think twice before killing a living dictator in one of my films."

No foreign country has lambasted Sausage Party, ("Not yet," notes Rogen). But the comedy's extreme profanity in a medium most associated with Disney makes Sausage Party an audacious release for any studio, let alone one brought to its knees by a previous film from the duo.

Rogen and Goldberg (co-writers and producers) have been working for nearly a decade on Sausage Party, their own warped version of a Pixar movie, complete with a song by Beauty and the Beast composer Alan Menken.

It's set in a supermarket where food and grocery items believe their salvation lies in being purchased and taken "to the great beyond."

There's some of the existentialism of their apocalyptic comedy This Is the End and even hints of the political satire of The Interview.

But there's mostly a staggering amount of double entendre (Rogen stars as a hot dog who dreams of uniting with Kristen Wiig's bun), a prolonged orgy scene and even a villainous douche.

"The real problem getting it made was not the talking douche or the graphic sexual stuff or the specific statements that it made," says Goldberg.

"The real thing was: 'Rated-R CG film.' That was the phrase that stopped the studios from making it. There's no model."

The pair — childhood friends from Vancouver turned creative collaborators — spoke separately in recent interviews, Goldberg on the phone from Los Angeles and Rogen over coffee in the East Village, with his dog, Zelda, quietly perched next to him.

In some ways, the fiasco of The Interview is long behind them.

They released their holiday comedy The Night Before last November with Sony and have dived into their AMC series Preacher, among other projects.

But both acknowledge the experience of The Interview remains omnipresent. Their office is still on the Sony lot and they've continued to work closely with the studio that, under former head Amy Pascal, fostered their early films.

"I overall remember it sucked. It was just a massive bummer," says Rogen of the hack. "It took a long time to emotionally recover from it."

"We all talk about it all the time and we will forever," says Goldberg. "Seth and I don't agree on what happened, even. He's less sure that it was North Koreans. I'm more sure. But it's not clear. We also have a running theory that someone started it and someone else picked it up."

They say there were many frustrations in the hack — how the media reported it, how the studio handled some aspects of it, how the theatres refused to screen the film.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, co-writers and co-producers of Sausage Party, pose together for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif. The film will be released nationwide on Aug. 12. CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION/AP

> **... I would probably think twice before killing a living dictator in one of my films.**
> Seth Rogen on whether he would make another film like The Interview

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KIA The Power to Surprise

Why smart people like bad movies

COLUMN

New study shows 'trash hounds' appreciate high and low brow art

Peter Howell
Torstar News Service

In my family, anybody who attempts to put on airs or to make an unseemly demand is greeted with a variation on a Mike Myers line from Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me.

"Well, I want a toilet made out of solid gold, but it's just not in the cards, is it, love?"

There's a similar riposte, using a Rodney Dangerfield snapper from Caddyshack, to any Howell caught wearing amusing headgear. "Anybody who wears a hat like that ought to get a free bowl of soup — it looks good on you, though!"

The exchange usually results in mutual laughter, depending on the mood of the one being mocked. And I'm pleased, relieved even, to discover that our juvenile sense of hilarity and love of dopey movies is actually the sign of high intelligence, rather than knuckle-dragging stupidity.

Britain's The Independent newspaper reported last week on a scholarly study published in the journal Poetics under this very serious title: Enjoying Trash films: Underlying Features, Viewing Stances, and Experiential Response Dimensions.

Study co-author Keyvan Sarkhosh, post-doctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics, wrote that although it may seem paradoxical for someone to voluntarily and happily watch a bad movie, it's actually a sign of a bright mind at work.

"To such viewers, trash films appear as an interesting and welcome deviation from the mainstream fare," Sarkhosh wrote.

"We are dealing here with an audience with above-average education, which one could describe as 'cultural omnivores.' Such viewers are interested in a broad spectrum of art and media across the traditional boundaries of high and popular culture."

"Cultural omnivores" sounds much better than "trash hounds," doesn't it? I'm surprised this story didn't get broader currency, but that's likely because it was swamped by the critical bloodletting for Suicide Squad, the supervillain adventure currently topping the box office.

Peter Howell writes that he appreciated Suicide Squad, despite its critical panning.
CONTRIBUTED

I was among the few critics who actually had something good to say about the DC Comics movie — great characters, dumb story, 2 1/2 stars out of 4 — which overall received a 26 per cent "rotten" rating on the Rotten Tomatoes aggregate chart, one notch lower than the 27 per cent given to DC's Batman v Superman earlier this year.

Most critics were of the same mindset as Joe Morgenstern of the Wall Street Journal, who called Suicide Squad "ugly trash" and warned it "amounts to an all-out attack on the whole idea of entertainment."

Others piled on with variations of the "worst movie ever" epithet. I wonder if they've seen Movie 43, the 2013 anthology comedy featuring a shameful array of slumming talent in a series of disgusting sketches. If I could have given it less than the zero stars I righteously awarded it, I would have.

Suicide Squad is a far better film — I actually enjoyed it, in a cultural omnivore kind of way — yet it seems to have broken wider the perceived divide between critics and regular moviegoers. There was a brief online flurry, under the hashtag #CrushtheTomato, of Suicide Squad fans who wanted Rotten Tomatoes shut down, a classic case of shooting the messenger. (Rotten Tomatoes actually has a relatively low bar: at least 60 per cent of critics have to like a film for it to get "fresh" status.)

There were also a large number of news reports crowing about how Suicide Squad broke the August record with its $134-million (U.S.) opening weekend take at the North America box office. The public came out for it, despite what all those nasty critics said! Hah-hah!

The same thing happened in the spring with Batman v Superman, a movie I hated, despite being a cultural omnivore. And I predict the same thing will occur with the second-weekend take for Suicide Squad, which will be at least 60 per cent lower than its debut, again like Batman v Superman.

Luhrmann gets down with a bit of nostalgia

Mamoudou Athie, left, and Shameik Moore star in The Get Down, a new Netflix show about the origins of hip hop. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

Romeo + Juliet filmmaker behind new Netflix show

From HBO's 1970s rock 'n' roll drama Vinyl to Netflix's '80s sci-fi hit Stranger Things and its new hip-hop origins series The Get Down, it's clear there's an appetite for the past.

And The Get Down co-creator Baz Luhrmann believes it's partly due to the U.S. presidential election. "I think I can say it pretty bluntly, there's no doubt it's amplified by the current election cycle," says the Oscar-nominated filmmaker behind The Great Gatsby, Moulin Rouge! and Romeo + Juliet.

"You have a youth that's pretty disappointed with the world that they're inheriting from the incumbent, adult world. They're pretty disappointed with what's been handed down ... and so what you see them doing is reaching out to (the past to) sort of identify their own sense of self within that. It's a way of examining yourself through the prism of the past."

Debuting Friday on Netflix, The Get Down traces the birth of hip hop as a group of teens try to make their mark through rhymes and graffiti in South Bronx, N.Y., circa 1977.

It's set against the backdrop of a heated mayoral election, racial tensions, and a disco scene rife with drug trafficking.

Luhrmann says he first thought of the story idea 10 years ago in a Paris restaurant, where he saw a Jamel Shabazz photo of Brooklyn kids from that era.

"I went, 'I wonder how a pure, new creative thought got borne from a time when there was so much difficulty,' and just answering that question has got me to where we are today."

The native of Australia acknowledges he may seem an odd fit to tell a story about the origins of hip hop.

"You couldn't get anyone further away from the centre of hip hop than me," he says. "But over the years, hip hop, in its essence, is collage without prejudice in that there's no prejudice.

"It might take a German record, Trans-Europe Express, and mix it up with beats from James Brown and it makes something new out of these two disparate elements, this collaging to make a third idea."

Plus, he recruited some hip-hop legends, including Grandmaster Flash, DJ Kool Herc, Nas, and Nelson George for the creative team. Most of the cast members, however, are relative newcomers — with the exception of co-stars including Jimmy Smits as a political boss and Jaden Smith as a graffiti artist.

You couldn't get anyone further away from the centre of hip hop than me.

Baz Luhrmann, who is a native of Australia

Fresh faces include Justice Smith as a teen with a gift for spoken word poetry, Herizen Guardiola as a talented vocalist, and Shameik Moore as a mover and shaker in the nightclub scene.

"That was the big risk," says Luhrmann of the unknown cast.

"There's all sorts of concerns about that in terms of the economics."

But, "Nelson George, who's been my partner in this ... he says hats off to Netflix," adds Luhrmann.

"With Orange is the New Black and this show and other shows that they're doing, they really are fearless about diversity, they really are. They're playing to a global stage."

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Star Trek: Discovery executive producer Brian Fuller.
CONTRIBUTED

Bryan Fuller feeds us some new Star Trek intel

INTERVIEW

New TV series will have female lead, gay character

The start of production on the new Star Trek TV series is a month away and the debut date isn't until next January, but the effort to build fan interest is already in motion — if not at warp speed.

Following up a Comic-Con panel in July about Star Trek: Discovery, executive producer Bryan Fuller shared details about the 13-episode series' setting, characters and innovations at a Television Critics Association meeting Wednesday.

"We want to arc out the information so you'll get a little information today, you'll get a little more information in October, and we'll keep building the evolution of the 'reveal' as we go," said Fuller, who was a writer on the series Star Trek: Voyager.

His disclosures included that the main character is female (human, yes; a captain, no); that the story will feature a gay character, and that there will be more aliens. Given that previous Star Trek series were all from the captain's point of view, giving the woman different duties will allow for a new dynamic in both relationships and storytelling, Fuller said. He didn't specify her title.

Casting for the series set aboard the U.S.S. Discovery has yet to be announced.

Here are tidbits Fuller shared about the show that will debut its first episode on CBS before it moves to its permanent home, online video service CBS All Access:

1. The series will incorporate an event in Star Trek lore that's been talked about but not explored, one which will allow for a serialized story that takes its protagonist on a journey of self-discovery. The event? Fuller wouldn't say.

2. There will "absolutely" be a gay character, he said. "I still have in my garage the hate mail that Star Trek: Voyager got because of a rumour that Jeri Ryan's character (named Seven of Nine) was going to be gay," he said. He resolved that if he ever did another Star Trek series it would introduce someone who is gay.

3. There will be robots.

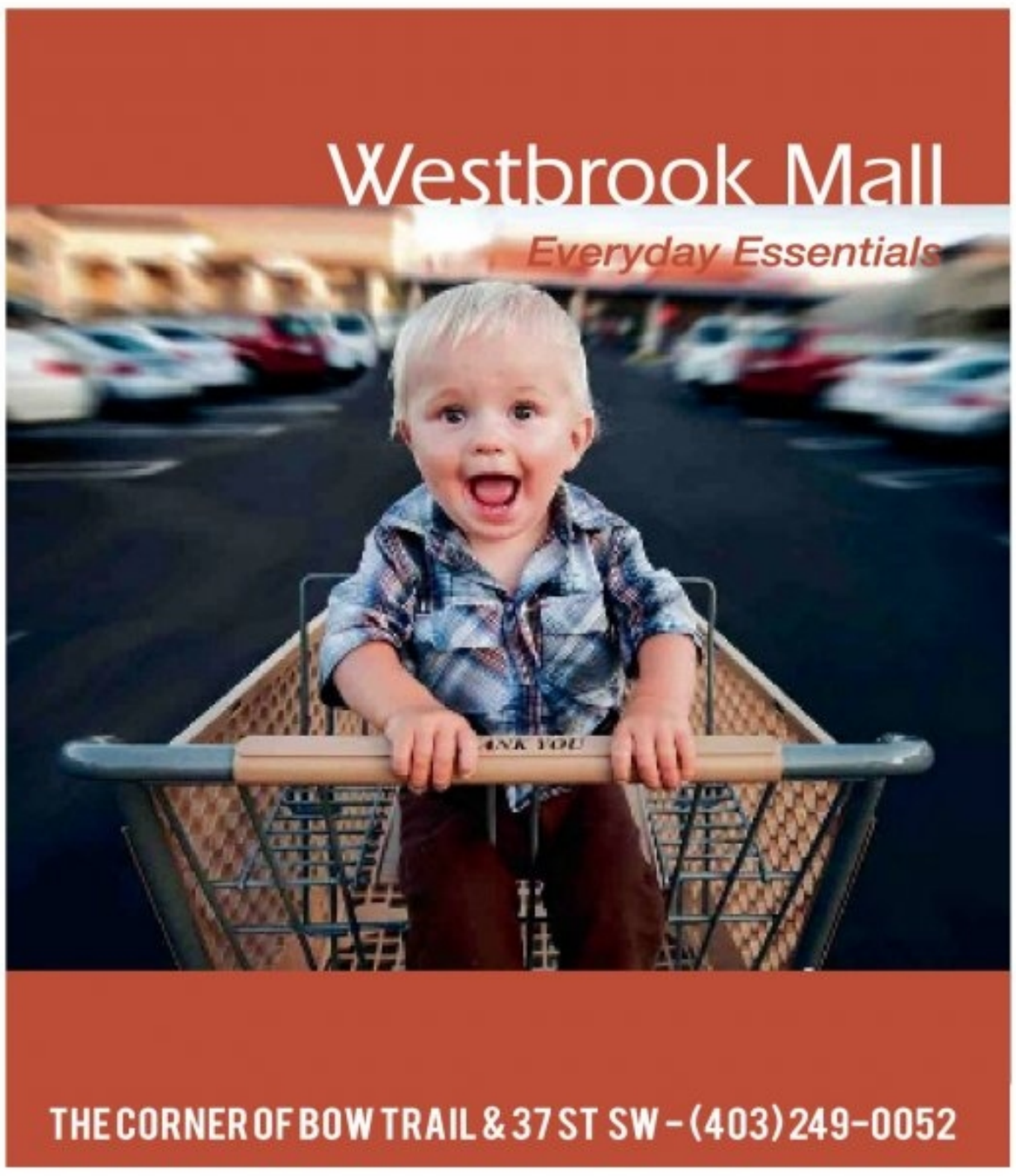
4. The aliens will be new and improved, and probably in greater numbers than typical for Star Trek. "You usually have one person with a bumpy forehead and seven other people who look relatively normal," Fuller said. The series will feature both newbies and the reimagining of familiar aliens — although Fuller acknowledged some Trekkies resist change.

5. The series takes place in an era that bridges the original 1960s Star Trek and Star Trek: Enterprise, the 2001-05 series set about a century before. But "Discovery" will be much closer in time to Capt. James T. Kirk's world, so it will be able to play with the design "iconography" of those spaceships and uniforms, Fuller said.

6. Some potential elements include the introduction of young versions of familiar characters like Dr. McCoy, but not in season one, and perhaps the inclusion of Amanda Grayson, Spock's mother (played by Winona Ryder on the big-screen).

7. CBS All Access already offers episodes of previous Star Trek television series, along with series from CBS' current and past broadcast schedule. The new Star Trek is the first original series developed specifically for U.S. audiences for the service.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A short skip from royalty to reality

GOSSIP

Pippa's future brother-in-law U.K.'s version of a Kardashian

Shinan Govani
For Torstar News Service

Pippa Middleton will marry Chelsea financier James Matthews next year. GETTY IMAGES

> (Pippa's) husband-to-be is the older brother of the ne'er-do-well Spencer Matthews. ... Pippa's marriage into the family is like a Kennedy marrying into the Kardashians

And then there was Prince Harry.

Of the four main actors in the Westminster Abbey rah-rah that took place one bright morning five years ago, he alone remains at loose, romantically speaking.

Kate and William — who had above-the-fold billing on that day — have only entrenched themselves in the annals of smug marrieds, royal or otherwise, pumping out two children and ceaseless photos since.

And, oh, that other character in that quad, the hitherto unknown lass who nearly stole the show with her perky, if not near-treasonous, posterior? Pippa Middleton, Kate's gown-minder, just announced she is off the market, at long-last.

"In the nick of time just before her 33 birthday (the age of Jesus when he died — THINK ABOUT IT)," snark-trumpeted Hadley Freeman in The Guardian, "Pippa is embracing her long-obvious destiny of living the '80s home counties dream and marrying a rich Chelsea financier."

That is to say, her fiancé James Matthews — a 40-year-old hedge-fund artiste who has a private plane and a ready vacation spot in legendary Eden Roc Hotel, which his family owns, in St. Barts — put "a ring on it," it being the finger one bloodline removed from the future Queen of England.

The most famous bachelorette in the U.K had become one of the world's greatest "dabblers," trying on a variety of roles, including writing a column for the Daily Telegraph (nixed after six months) and a party-planning book, called Celebrate (which prompted her to do anything but after it was one big, fat bust).

There was also her more successful turn as an international alpha-adventuress: the younger Middleton sister's feats have included the 75-kilometre-plus Otillo swim-run across a Swedish archipelago, the Great Wall marathon in China and most recently, the conquest of a 15,000-foot peak in the French Alps.

What's seemed clear is that Pippa's job is to just be Pippa, a one-name mission that kept her in steady rotation through the British press and, because a calling like this calls for cycling narratives, involved her being cast, alternately, as an insatiable man-eater and a Miss Havisham.

The latter reached Peak Pippa, when Life & Style published a cover with the headline, "Why Am I Undatable?", complete with seven different bridesmaids getups that the poor thing had worn over the years. Tabloid covers are an art form, and as far as this one goes, it told the story of a woman just one bridesmaid dress-strap from crying into her ice cream while belting out Céline Dion's "All By Myself," a la Bridget Jones.

The other sub-fantasy that had played its way into the marrow of British wish-fulfilment?

That Pippa was destined to have a consumption with the ginger Windsor who escorted her outside the church during the Royal Wedding that day in 2011.

The one-sister-for-Wills-and-the-other-for-Harry narrative proved so irresistible that one breathless mag report even had Pippa turning up on Harry's doorstep in tight jeans, prompting the professional royal spare to light up candles and serve up a "pasta carbonara that he'd prepared himself."

God save the carbs.

The most utterly fascinating aspect of the freshly-baked Pippa engagement, though, is one that might be lost on those on this side of pond, and those who don't understand the nuances of British celebrity.

Her husband-to-be is the older brother of ne'er-do-well Spencer Matthews.

He is a reality television star so big in the United Kingdom that Pippa's marriage into the family is like a Kennedy marrying into the Kardashians.

This Spencer brother was one of the original cast-members of Made in Chelsea, a gauzy show in its 14th season about rich kids who party hard and love harder, and is the equivalent of the American-bred show The Hills.

Having squired and cheated a range of women on the show, with names ranging from Caggie, Funda, Louise, Lucy and Kimberly, Spencer has boasted about losing his virginity at 13 and sleeping with more than 1,000 women, and later even did some reality TV show moonlighting by auctioning himself off, so to speak, in a British version of The Bachelor.

Let's recap: this Spencer is going to be the brother-in-law of the woman who is the sister-in-law of Prince William.

From reality to royalty in three easy steps — can you imagine the family reunions?

When the Pippa-James wedding does happen — and its expected to be the society event of 2017 — it will be yet another step in the looping of a class clash in Britain, one that began when the daughter of a former British Airways flight dispatcher and flight attendant married into the House of Windsor.

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Touring Taiwan on two wheels

ADVENTURE

Stunning rides for every ability level

Mark Stachiew
For Metro Canada

From taking in tourist sites to taking on Taroko Gorge, Taiwan has a great bike ride for nearly everyone. ALL PHOTOS MARK STACHIEW/FOR METRO

Taiwan might be famous for making cheap electronics, but it also happens to be home to Giant, the world's largest bicycle company.

It exports millions of bicycles to every corner of the world each year, but also supplies a thriving local market in a land that is in love with the two-wheel ride.

Thus, visitors to Taiwan can easily explore the country on bike by riding a sprawling network of dedicated paths that caters to cyclists of all abilities. Numerous local operators offer tours that include bike rentals and support vans as well as restaurant and accommodation options that allow tourists to go at their own pace.

Here are some popular cycling itineraries, rated by difficulty, for people interested in discovering this green and pleasant sub-tropical island:

Easy

Take a U-bike in Taipei. Taiwan's capital has an extensive bicycle-sharing network that is a breeze to use. Ride out to Taipei 101 for the best views of the city from the top of an architectural marvel that was for a brief time the tallest building in the world. Check out the changing of the guard ceremony at the magnificent Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, or simply meander to any corner of the city that catches your fancy. Unlike some Asian cities, Taipei's traffic is surprisingly civilized and riding a bike there doesn't feel like a death wish.

Ride around Sun Moon Lake. Taiwan's largest lake is one of its most scenic. Sacred to the Thao tribe, one of Taiwan's indigenous peoples, the lake has long been a popular resort area for Taiwanese. Cyclists can discover the lake's beauty with a 30-kilometre circumnavigation that brings them past magnificent temples and lush forests filled with monkeys, birds and noisy insects.

Medium

Follow the coastal route. Taiwan's Coastal Mountain Range plunges steeply toward the sea.
The green sides of the mountains are covered with dense, tropical foliage and their tops are shrouded in low clouds. Cyclists along this route stick close to the water's edge that is lined with craggy rocks and grey sand. It is part of Cycling Route #1, a path that circles the entire island of Taiwan and is a popular goal for Taiwanese cyclists that can be completed in about two weeks.

Discover the Huatang Valley
This inland route lies in a valley between two mountain ranges. Most of the ride is flat, but there are some long, gradual hills that can be tiring over long distances, but riders are rewarded when they go downhill. Much of the route rides past a quilted landscape of rice paddies. They are beautifully green most of the year and turn to gold come harvest time.

Difficult

Challenge the King of the Mountain. Every October, cyclists from around the world compete in Taiwan's most challenging cycling event, the King of the Mountain. Cyclists ride a stunningly scenic 105-kilometre route of switchbacks and hairpin curves that take them from sea level to 3,275 metres, high in the thin air of the mountains of the country's beautiful Taroko National Park.

HISTORICAL TRIP **THE JAILED-WITCH PROJECT**

Archeologists have unearthed a witch prison beneath the Church of St. Nicholas, one of the largest and most prestigious burgh churches in Scotland. The discovery offers a gruesome glimpse into the city of Aberdeen's unsettling past over 600 years ago. **MICHAEL ROBINSON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

1 Alleged love spell

Isobel Strathanchyn was accused of casting a marriage spell by telling a woman named Elspet Mutray to hang a cloth containing a bent penny and wax around her neck, "and when she saw the man she loved . . . stroke her face thereafter, and she so doing should attain to the marriage of the man whom she loved the best, and the said Elspet, understanding that the said direction to her was plain witchcraft and devilry, she cast the cloth in the fire."

2 Walls of bone

During the church's major excavation the remains of over 2,000 people have been found. Archeologists also uncovered bone fragments and skulls tucked away within the stone walls of an earlier church underneath the existing building.

3 The ring

Protruding from a wall on the church's grounds is the most conspicuous proof of the former prison's existence: An iron ring. Aberdeen's records reference such a ring, which researchers say was installed for the sole purpose of shackling witches.

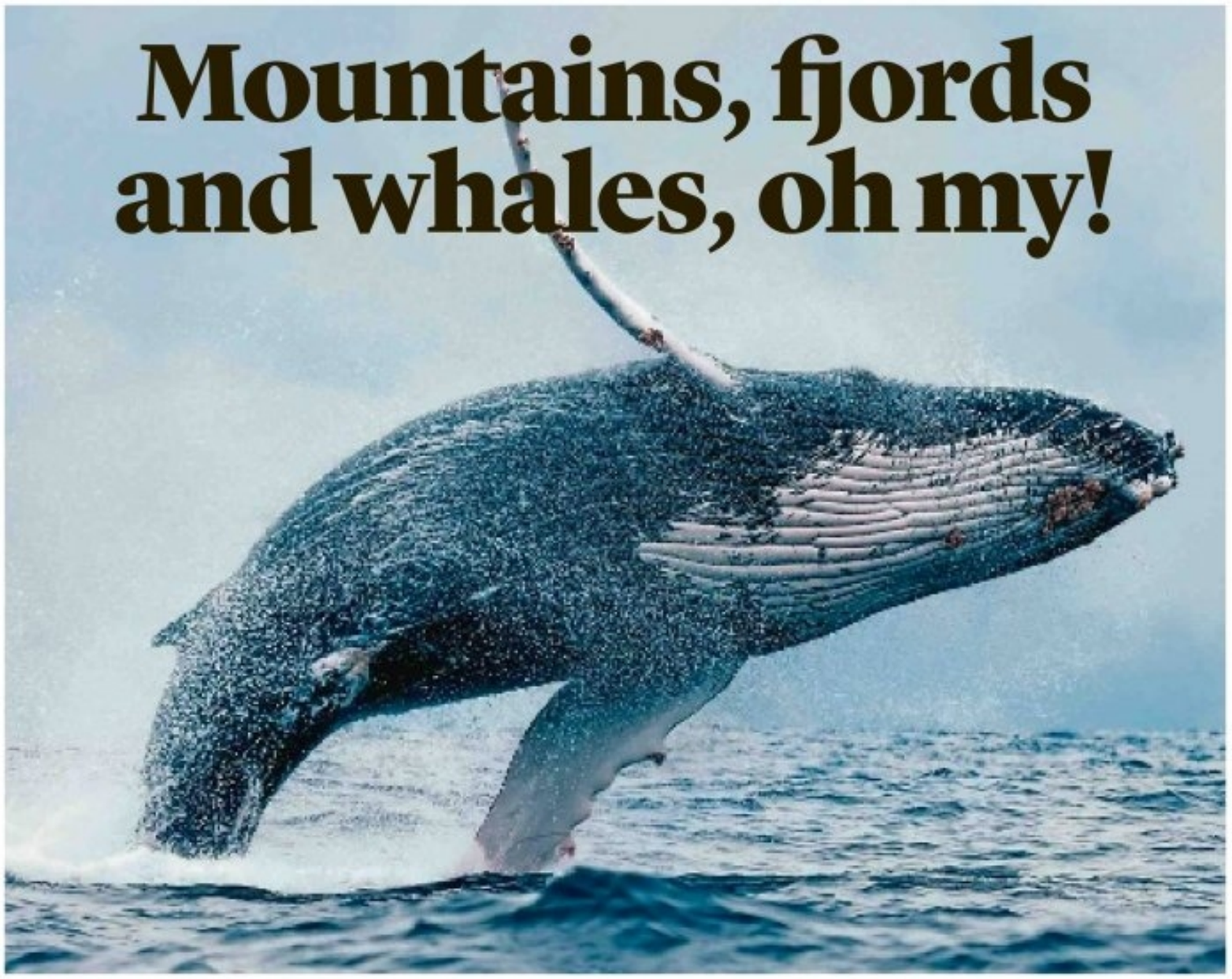
4 City records

According to records in the City of Aberdeen Archives, several items were purchased to carry out Isobel Strathanchyn's execution. Treasurer's accounts list four tar barrels, a stake, 36 feet of tow (rope), and 26 "loads" of peat or fuel.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Gros Morne National Park has something for everyone

Amanda Nunes
For Metro Canada



Mountains, fjords and whales, oh my!

Until you arrive in Gros Morne National Park, it's hard to comprehend just how beautiful it is. Located in Western Newfoundland, it's the second largest national park in Atlantic Canada, so you'll want to give yourself plenty of time to explore all this UNESCO World Heritage site has to offer.

Visit the Tablelands

One of the first things that you notice as you enter the park are the lush green rolling hills and what look like flat, yellow mountains, but are actually slabs of ancient ocean floor, making this one of the best places to walk upon the Earth's mantle. Join a daily guided hike, or trek up the steep cliffs on a self-guided hike for unparalleled vistas.

Go tide pooling at Lobster Cove Head

Take a coastal walk along rocky shoreline when the tide goes out. Stop and visit Lobster Cove Head Lighthouse on your way down to the shore.

This lighthouse was constructed in 1897 and is now fully automated. Inside visitors can explore an interpretive exhibit filled with artifacts and photographs.

Twice weekly, Parks Canada leads guided tide pool walks. If the tide is in, keep your eyes peeled for whales as they've been known to frequent the area.

Take a boat ride through former fjords

The 30-45 minute walk to get to the Western Brook Pond boat launch is more than worth it.

A highlight of Gros Morne, the narrated boat cruise takes you through spectacular views of soaring emerald green fjords and dark blue water.

Waterfalls with colourful names (Pissing Mare falls, for instance) tumble off glacier carved cliff sides that soar up to 2,000 feet (600 m).

These rock formations are now known as landlocked former fjords because they now consist of fresh water instead of salt.

Want to get closer? Experienced hikers can climb these billion-year-old cliffs or camp overnight alongside them.

Visit Coastal Towns

Woody Point and Norris Point are separated by Bonne Bay.

Visitors to Woody Point can stay in a comfortable sea side suite with beautiful views of Bonne Bay at Bonne Bay Inn's Over Water Suites.

For dinner, head to the Old Loft Restaurant for a home cooked meal and traditional Newfoundland cod cakes.

On the other side of the bay at Norris Point, the Bonne Bay Boat Tour will take you on a harbour tour.

If you're lucky, you can see humpback whales, minke whales and seabirds, while listening to traditional Newfoundland tunes.

No trip to Newfoundland is complete without a lighthouse. ISTOCK

Newfoundland's Gros Morne National Park is full of natural beauty even if the names aren't quite as elegant, like Pissing Mare Falls. ISTOCK

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Making the most of Pokémon Go

PLAYING IT UP

Businesses capitalize on game craze

Marc Saltzman

It's the viral hit of the summer: Niantic's Pokémon Go is the smartphone game that has taken the world by storm.

By fusing a 20-year-old franchise with a device we all carry around with us, leveraging technologies like GPS and augmented reality, and launching it in the summer when we're spending more time outdoors, it seems the stars have aligned for Nintendo and Niantic, the developer of this digital download for iOS and Android phones.

But resourceful businesses — including many in the Calgary area — are taking advantage of this game craze by providing an incentive for players to walk into their establishments.

Just ask Josh Albers from Analog Coffee on 17th Ave SW. "By encouraging people to come in and play Pokémon Go, it has increased our evening business by a large amount," said Albers, 31.

"People want coffee or snacks while they play."

The nighttime supervisor and barista at this trendy downtown café says the "red mile" district already enjoys a lot of Pokémon Go activity — with many PokéStops and Gyms (where characters battle) preloaded on the game's map — and so he decided to take it one step further to get more people into the storefront with a Lure.

Analog Coffee barista Josh Albers says Pokémon Go, right, is great for business. SCOTT BAKKEN

A Lure Module is an item in Pokémon Go that can be placed on a PokéStop for 30 minutes, which tells nearby players to walk to that location for some in-game goodies. Analog Coffee found it resulted in extra foot traffic, and increased sales.

"I throw a Lure on our [Poké] Stop, and it's not unusual to get hit with a rush and people want to stay," said Albers, who often plays the game with his wife in his spare time. "I've had the café full with almost everyone on their phones playing…it's pretty amazing."

> **It's pretty amazing**
>
> Josh Albers of Analog Coffee says of increased evening business at the café

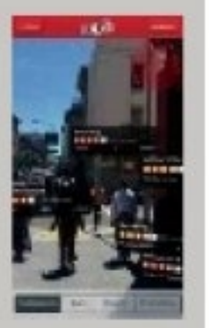
HOW YOUR BIZ CAN GET STARTED

- **First things first:** Download the game for free from the App Store (for iPhone) or Google Play (for Android devices).
- **Start the game** and start playing. Tap the PokéBall icon at the bottom of the screen. Now tap the Shop icon.
- **Scroll down** to where it says Lure Module, which you can buy for 100 in-game PokéCoins. Eight Lure Modules cost 680 PokéCoins. You get these coins by playing the game, but if you run out, you can buy 100 PokéCoins for $0.99 cents; 550 for $4.99; 1,200 for $9.99; 2,500 for $19.99; 5,200 for $39.99; or 14,500 PokéCoins for $99.99.
- **Remember:** a Lure on a PokéStop will last only a half-hour, and is only seen by people nearby.
- **Also be aware** you can submit a request to have your location considered as a Pokémon Go Gym or PokéStop at the Niantic support page.
- **Some Calgary-based businesses** are offering to throw down a Lure for customers if they buy something. One bar advertised it was giving half-price drinks to those who show the game on their phone.

5 OTHER AUGMENTED REALITY APPS

Pokémon Go phenomenon, the wildly popular smartphone game that challenges players to go outside and catch virtual critters, uses augmented reality (AR) technology, so it looks like those cartoon characters are in the world around you when seen through the phone's camera lens. Pokémon Go is the most popular app to use AR, but the technology isn't new. Here's a look at 5 other free AR-powered apps.

Yelp
With a feature called Monocle, Yelp users can hold up a phone to see nearby businesses, and superimposed information such as the name of a business, average user rating, type of cuisine (if a restaurant), and more.



Blippar
The Blippar app lets you discover an exciting world around you by "blipping" everyday objects. Pan your surroundings with your phone's camera and Blippar will recognize an item, such as a telephone or dog, which then lets you swipe to learn more about the object.

Google Translate
You likely know Google Translate can translate text or speech from one language into another. But did you know you can use your smartphone's camera to translate text instantly — in 29 languages? Use the app to scan a French menu or a Chinese road sign and the text on your smartphone screen will look like the words were written in English.

Crayola Colour Alive
With the Crayola Colour Alive app, kids can print free colouring pages and colour them in as they normally would — including some branded characters like Iron Man from Marvel's Avengers or Elsa from Disney's Frozen — and when you're done, hold up your phone with the app loaded and the character appears to emerge out of the paper and into your room.

Star Walk 2
Whether you use Star Walk 2 Free (for Android only) or go with the full Star Walk 2 on iOS or Android (for $2.99), armchair astronomers will appreciate this comprehensive app for spotting stars, planets, comets, ISS, satellites, and more. Point your phone's camera to the sky and let it do the rest.

MARC SALTZMAN

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Play it safe: 5 Pokémon Go tips

INTERACTIVE MAGIC

Have fun! Just watch where you're going

Marc Saltzman

Unlike most smartphone games that let you play anywhere, Niantic's hit Pokémon Go — a free download for iPhone and Android devices — requires you to go outside, explore your neighbourhood, and catch (or battle) cartoon creatures superimposed on the real world around you. This "augmented reality" feature is magical for the player.

And so one would think parents would be all for a game that gets kids off their tush and into the great outdoors. Problem is, news headlines have been dominated by countless stories of players injuring themselves because they're not paying attention to their surroundings.

With this in mind, the following are some assorted tips to enjoying the game safely and responsibly.

Players follow their phones during a Pokémon Go event in Nebraska. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Look around you

Don't stare at your smartphone screen to try and find that elusive Pikachu hiding in a parking lot. Instead, keep your eyes on where you're walking, and listen for that familiar sound (and feel the phone vibration) that lets you know when there's a nearby Pokémon. Now stop walking, and toss a PokéBall at your creature.

2. Don't game and drive

From the "duh" department, don't play this game while driving. Sounds like obvious advice, but police all over Canada are catching players looking for Pokémon while behind the wheel. With the game's latest update, you need to confirm you're a passenger to play (using the phone's GPS chip, the game knows that you're going too fast to be walking).

3. No trespassing

There are numerous "PokéStop" locations per city — placed by parks, monuments, stores, and other public areas by the game makers – but some have been incorrectly placed on private property. Therefore, think twice before blindly following your phone. In Canada and the U.S., some trespassers have been shot at. Seriously.

4. Remember: 'safety in numbers'

Play in a group to keep an eye on your fellow players. Plus, it's more fun that way. Be an extra set of eyes for your friends or family. Some muggers have placed an in-game "lure module" on a PokéStop to tempt more players, so this is less likely to happen in larger groups. Wear a hat and stay hydrated. Take breaks. Your Pokémon will be there when you're ready to start up again.

5. Watch for game addiction

Are your kids enjoying the game too much? Impose rules and limits, and talk to your kids about screen time and digital addiction. Pokémon Go eats up a lot of data, which can be costly, plus there's optional in-app purchases. Remind players the game affects the phone's battery performance, which could leave them without a working phone when they need one.

WHY YOU SHOULD GIVE IT A GO

Pokémon Go does have its merits, so don't be dissuaded by our "safety" tips to playing the game. This free download can be a lot of fun — especially while playing with your kids or with groups of friends — because you're walking around outside to find, collect and battle these characters. Play responsibly, and enjoy this new kind of interactive entertainment experience; you'll no doubt see a lot more of going forward.

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DEMO ..... <$1096>

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REBATE..... <$1000>
LOYALTY/CONQUEST.. <$500>
DEMO ..... <$1056>

PRICE **$32,164** OR PAYMENT **$194**/BW*

STK# 010223

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MSRP $39,440*

SALES MANAGERS DEMO, 2,632 KM

REBATE..... <$2000>
LOYALTY/CONQUEST.. <$750>
DEMO ..... <$1677>

PRICE **$35,013** OR PAYMENT **$207**/BW*

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MSRP $31,820*

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REBATE..... <$1000>
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metro RIO

Rio gold medals are plated with just six grams of the expensive stuff, the rest — 494 grams — is 92.5 per cent purity silver

1 Queen of gymnastics — U.S. gymnast Simone Biles won gold in the women's individual all-around. Teammate Aly Raisman and Russia's Aliya Mustafina followed. Ellie Black of Halifax placed fifth, the best showing by a Canadian ever in the individual all-around.
THOMAS COEX/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

2 Playing for third — Vernon, B.C.'s Vasek Pospisil and his partner Daniel Nestor, of Toronto, will play for a bronze medal in tennis. The Canadians lost to Spain's Rafael Nadal and Marc Lopez 7-6 (7), 7-6 (6) in the semifinals of the men's doubles.
RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 Midas touch — American Michael Phelps won the men's 200-metre individual medley to collect his 22nd career Olympic gold medal and fourth of the Games.
RICHARD HEATHCOTE/GETTY IMAGES

RIO in brief

Police vehicle sprayed with bullets, officer hit

Pervasive violence is an everyday part of Rio, and a police officer was hospitalized after getting shot in the head when he and two others got lost near a slum.

The officers from Brazil's national security force who were sent to Rio for the Olympics relied on a GPS device to navigate unfamiliar streets Wednesday afternoon, but they took a wrong turn off a highway leading to Rio's international airport. Their truck was sprayed with bullets, and officer Helio Vieira was shot.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venus still in the hunt for her fifth gold medal

Venus Williams' Rio Olympics is still going — just barely.

Upset in the first round in singles and doubles while battling a virus, the four-time gold medallist was a late entrant into mixed doubles. She and American teammate Rajeev Ram faced two match points Thursday and saved both in rallying from a set down for a 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3), 10-8 tiebreak win over Kiki Bertens and Jean-Julien Rojer of the Netherlands.

The U.S. duo moves on to Friday's quarter-finals.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Penny Oleksiak reacts after tying for the gold medal in Thursday night's women's 100-metre freestyle in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Penny strikes it rich with glorious gold

RIO2016

Teenager adds fourth medal with stunning tied triumph

Teen swimming sensation Penny Oleksiak tied for gold in the women's 100-metre free-style on Thursday at the Rio Olympics.

The 16-year-old Toronto native finished in an Olympic record time of 52.70 seconds with American Simone Manuel. Sarah Sjostrom of Sweden captured bronze in 52.99 seconds.

The gold was won in the final quarter of the 100-metre sprint. Oleksiak pushed to a furious finish to touch the wall at the same time as Manuel.

Oleksiak, now the youngest ever Summer Games gold medalist for Canada, looked up in disbelief as her time and position flashed on the scoreboard in Rio.

The teenager becomes the first Canadian swimmer to win four medals in a single Summer Games. She had previously won two relay bronze medals and a silver in the 100-metre butterfly.

"Honestly, I don't think anything's changed other than having so much support from Canadians," Oleksiak told CBC in a post-race interview about how her life has turned upside down since the Olympics began. "I'm just looking forward to going home and seeing everyone."

It was the first time a Canadian woman competed in the 100-metre freestyle since Marion Lay finished fourth in Mexico City in 1968.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

GOLF

DeLaet off to a strong start on the links

Canada's defence of its 112-year-old Olympic golf title is off to a strong start.

Graham DeLaet of Weyburn, Sask., fired four birdies over his first eight holes en route to a 5-under-par 66 and the clubhouse lead on Thursday until Australia's Marcus Fraser closed his round a short time later with a blistering 63. It was the first round of golf played at the Olympics since Canadian George S. Lyon won gold at the 1904 St. Louis Games.

Lyon played so long ago that he was born in Richmond, Canada West, the British colony that became Ontario after Confederation in 1867.

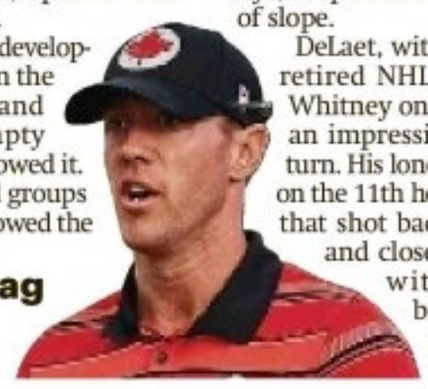
"It's pretty cool," DeLaet said. "First time in over 100 years and we're leading the charge here at the Olympics."

Henrik Stenson of Sweden also opened with a 66, and five players, including Germany's Alex Cejka, were right behind them at 67. David Hearn of Brantford, Ont., opened with a 2-over-par 73.

Golf is in the developmental stages in the host country and the rather empty grandstands showed it. There were still groups of fans who followed the golfers around the 7,128-yard course, which has wide fairways, deep bunkers and plenty of slope.

DeLaet, with friend and retired NHL player Ray Whitney on his bag, was an impressive 31 at the turn. His lone bogey came on the 11th hole but he got that shot back on No. 13 and closed his round with another birdie.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

"You're playing for the flag and it's a pretty cool feeling." Graham DeLaet



metro SPORTS

The Raptors will open their season on Oct. 26 in Toronto against the Detroit Pistons, two nights before hosting the NBA champion Cavaliers

Jays hoping for joy of six

MLB

GM backing his rotation plan but Sanchez is still a concern

The Jays' rotation includes, from left, Marco Estrada, Marcus Stroman, Aaron Sanchez and J.A. Happ. THE CANDIAN PRESS FILE

As counterintuitive as it seems, Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins believes that the longer the team keeps going with a six-man rotation, that things are going well.

He feels that there are factors that would end the six-man experiment and none of them are good, so if the Jays are still using six starting pitchers into September, it means they will likely have survived the dog days of August and will be in the AL East and American League playoff mix.

"We see it as a positive, we really do, at this time of the year," Atkins said

"The reason that the five-man vs. six-man rotation gets a lot of attention is because it's not typical. That's fair and that's why we walked through all of our alternatives. But as we looked at the rotations and looked at how it would impact each starter and then thought about our bullpen, thought about the optionable relievers, we felt like we had enough (bullpen) depth and enough flexibility to adjust when we had to adjust. If we don't have to adjust, that would be a very good outcome, because that would mean that everyone was performing and healthy."

Of course the big question is why, after being involved in trade deadline discussions for 19 starting pitchers (his own estimate) and after obtaining a workhorse, Francisco Liriano from the Pirates, and after insisting Aaron Sanchez transition to the 'pen would begin, why did they changed their mind? Is it because the trade deadline was too early and they felt Sanchez still had starting bullets left?

> **It wasn't that we have to have a starter. It was how do we make our team deeper?**
> Ross Atkins

"We were also in on well over 20 relievers," Atkins countered. "We were looking to acquire pitching. It had to be on the major-league team. We were looking to build depth in pitching.

"It was an opportunity that we felt good about that added depth. It's really hard to say what will transpire with the rotation. I think the players will dictate that."

The problem with believing that the six-man rotation will solve the problem of excess Sanchez innings is that it won't really, especially if the Jays go deep into October. If manager John Gibbons continues to roll through the rotation of six guys, Sanchez would still log seven more starts.

Given his average, he'd accumulate 49 more innings, adding up to 194 in the regular season. Then if they went to the World Series, that would be six more Sanchez starts, giving him 235-240 innings.

"We'll be creative there, it's not just off-days, but potentially skipping starts," Atkins said. "There's a lot of things we can do. Really it came down to, there was more rationale pointing towards doing (a six-man) then there was rationale pointing to just do what everyone else has always done."

There was an early belief that — with the arrival of president Mark Shapiro and his hand-picked, inexperienced GM — the plan was to blow up the roster, cut back on payroll and rebuild the farm. But at this stage, Atkins insists that he sees the window of opportunity to win for this group to include next year and hopefully beyond. The fan support at Rogers Centre and TV ratings tell him that they owe it to the people that have brought them to this point. That's encouraging.

"It's a beautiful thing, it's why we do it," Atkins said. "I can only imagine what other teams are thinking when they come into this environment and think, 'Wow, that's special.' It really is a testament to the things that have been done well, before I was here. I'm really honoured to be a part of it."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NHL

Roy ends tenure with Avs

Patrick Roy is leaving the Colorado Avalanche.

The club's head coach and vice-president of hockey operations announced his decision to resign in a lengthy statement on Thursday that suggested discord with the organization.

Roy's vision for the club, he said, needed to be "perfectly aligned with that of the organization," adding that he must have "say in the decisions that impact the team's performance."

"These conditions are not currently met," Roy concluded.

Patrick Roy GETTY IMAGES

And therefore, his tenure with the Avalanche was over.

Roy was mostly ineffective in his role as the Avalanche's sometimes controversial head coach. The club qualified for the postseason once in his three seasons, missing out in each of the past two campaigns.

The Avs were often levelled in the puck possession game despite having a number of young skilled players. Colorado typically forced its goaltenders, mostly Semyon Varlamov, to contend with a heavy shot count each night. The club allowed 32.3 shots per game last year, the third-worst mark in hockey.

Colorado has an incredible amount of young skill including 25-year-old speedster Matt Duchene, who produced 30 goals for the first time last season, 20-year-old Nathan MacKinnon (52 points last season), 23-year-old captain Gabriel Landeskog (three straight 20-goal seasons) and 24-year-old offensive whiz on defence, Tyson Barrie (25 goals, 102 points over the last two seasons).

Still, the Avalanche missed the playoffs by five points last season (boasting a minus-24 goal differential) and nine points one year earlier (minus-eight).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **Though it saddens me, I have put much thought about this decision.**
> Patrick Roy

MLB

A-Rod helps Yanks rally to Fenway win

Alex Rodriguez drove in a run with a bases-loaded dribbler, capping a three-run rally in the eighth inning that lifted the New York Yankees over the Red Sox 4-2 Thursday night and sent the booed designated hitter out of Boston with one last victory.

Rodriguez is set to play his final game for the Yankees on Friday night at home against Tampa Bay. The 41-year-old designated hitter will then be released and become an adviser and instructor for the club.

Rodriguez was 0 for 4 and loudly jeered throughout the game, which turned in the Yankees' favour on a crucial fielding mistake that allowed them to overcome a 2-1 deficit and take two out of three in the series. Rodriguez lined out, popped out and struck out before his tapper in front of the plate in the eighth allowed Brett Gardner to score from third and put New York up 4-2. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Riders slapped with fine

The Saskatchewan Roughriders were fined $60,000 on Thursday following a CFL investigation into alleged roster violations. The Roughriders were in violation of policies which prohibit practising with ineligible players, players participating in practice who are on the six-game injured list and having free agents practise with players who are under contact, according to a release. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

LeBron agrees to 3-year deal: Source

A person familiar with the contract says superstar LeBron James has agreed to a three-year, $100 million contract with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

$100M

LeBron James' reported salary in a new three-year deal.

The person says James, who recently led the Cavs to an NBA title — the first for a Cleveland sport team in 52 years — will soon sign the deal. The person spoke to the Associated Press Thursday on condition of anonymity because some details of the deal need to be finalized.

The 31-year-old James recently indicated he intended to re-sign with Cleveland, but was expected to accept the same one-year deal he signed in each of his two previous seasons since returning to Cleveland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

6 DARK HORSES for the Heisman Trophy

The pool for the Heisman Trophy is a deep one. Last year's winner Derrick Henry has moved on to the NFL, but five of the next six players in the voting are back, led by runner-up Christian McCaffrey of Stanford. But here are some who could insert themselves into the conversation.

1 Chad Kelly

The Mississippi quarterback is listed high on NFL draft boards for 2017. The nephew of Jim Kelly led the Rebels to five victories over Top 25 teams, including Alabama on the road, as they launch a challenge in the SEC West.

2 Royce Freeman

Freeman's 3,201 yards rushing the last two years are the most by any player in a Power Five conference. He broke LaMichael James' single-season Oregon rushing record with 1,836 yards in 2015. He also led the country with 36 runs of 15 yards or more.

3 Greg Ward Jr.

Ward led the Cougars to a 13-1 record that was the best in Houston history, and he'll step into a big national spotlight in the opener against Oklahoma. His 16 runs of at least 20 yards led FBS quarterbacks and all players in the American Athletic Conference.

4 Seth Russell

The quarterback led Baylor to a No. 2 national ranking and six straight wins before a neck injury against Iowa State ended his season. He threw for 29 touchdowns and more than 2,100 yards in seven games and also ran for 402 yards.

5 Jabril Peppers

The last two-way player to win the Heisman was the Wolverines' Charles Woodson in 1997. Peppers could be the next. He's moving from safety to a hybrid linebacker position. He also has shown the ability to excel at a half-dozen other spots, not to mention returning punts and kicks.

6 Josh Rosen

Rosen threw for almost 3,700 yards and 23 touchdowns as a freshman and set a UCLA record by going 245 consecutive passes without an interception. He has a new quarterbacks coach in Marques Tuiasosopo and new offensive co-ordinator in Kennedy Polamalu. As good as Rosen was last year, he figures to only get better. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALL PICTURES GETTY IMAGES

Garoppolo mostly solid in first start

Jimmy Garoppolo drops back to throw on Thursday night in Foxborough, Mass. JIM ROGASH/GETTY IMAGES

NFL

Brady's backup gets job done against Saints

PRE-SEASON

34 PATRIOTS | 22 SAINTS

Jimmy Garoppolo made his pre-season debut, spreading the ball around for 168 yards, and Jamie Collins added a 43-yard interception return for a touchdown as the New England Patriots beat the New Orleans Saints 34-22 on Thursday night.

Garoppolo played the entire first half as he preps to start the first four games of the regular season in place of Tom Brady, who will be serving a suspension for his involvement in the "Deflategate" case. Brady was not in the building Thursday, excused by the team to attend memorial services for a family member.

Saints running back Mark Ingram had an early fumble, but also had two one-yard touchdown runs in an extended night that saw him play most of the first half. Second-year quarterback Garrett Grayson threw an early interception, but completed a few long passes to finish 10-for-16 for 133 yards.

Defensive end Kasim Edebali had two first-quarter sacks.

After a slow start, Garoppolo completed several long passes and finished 11 of 18. He converted a fourth-down run.

Trey Flowers added a 17-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown in the fourth quarter, scooping up the loose ball created by his sack of Luke McCown. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Lots of clicking, no typing

A new NCAA rule change is catching some recruits by surprise while causing coaches to debate how much time they should spend on social media.

Under the change last week, athletic department staff are allowed to retweet or show their approval of social media posts made by recruits. The change has been nicknamed "Click, Don't Type" because coaches still aren't allowed to add any sort of comment to a recruit's post.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chargers' Johnson done for season with injury

San Diego Chargers wide receiver Stevie Johnson will miss the season with a knee injury, coach Mike McCoy confirmed Thursday.

Johnson injured his right knee during the second practice of training camp while getting up to run downfield after making a diving catch. The nine-year pro underwent surgery Tuesday and was told Wednesday that his season was done.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Blueberry Sweet Potato Waffles

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

It seems an unlikely pairing but once you get sweet potato and blueberries together they're like peanut butter and jelly, but better. Well, it is. They're in a waffle, for heaven's sake.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time:10 minutes
Makes 4 large waffles

Ingredients
- 2 cups spelt flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- pinch of allspice
- 1 1/3 cups milk
- 2 eggs
- 2 eggs
- 2 Tbsp oil
- 1 Tbsp maple syrup
- 1/4 cup sweet potato puree
- 1/4 cup fresh blueberries

Directions

1. Preheat your waffle iron.

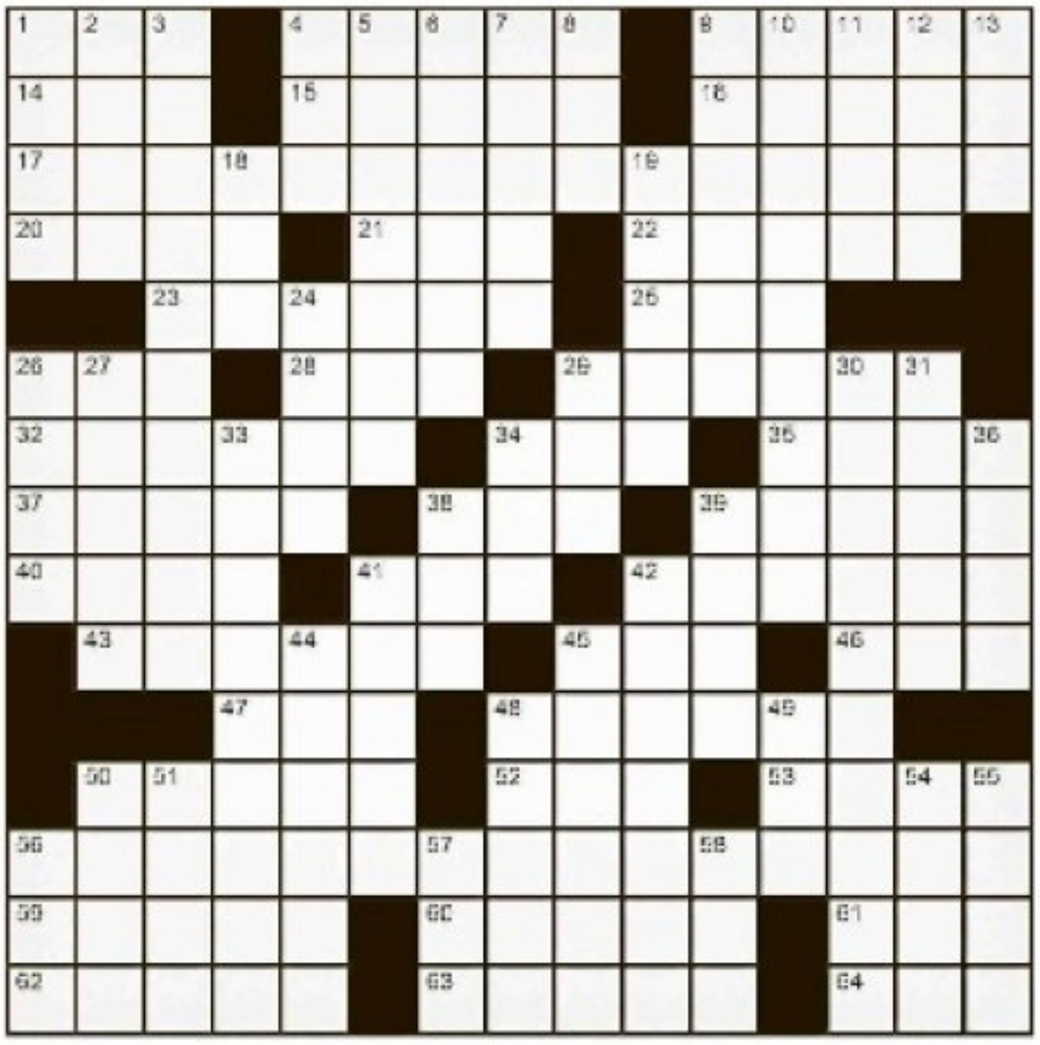
2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, salt and allspice. Stir in 2/3 cup milk, eggs, oil and maple syrup. Mix in sweet potato and then fold in the blueberries.

3. Coat waffle iron with oil or nonstick spray; repeat if necessary between batches. Follow the waffle iron's instructions for cooking.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. RIO 2016: Swimmer's head covering
4. __ Sketch
9. Borders on
14. Kilos alternatives
15. Actress Lindsay
16. Valleys
17. RIO 2016: Aphrodite or Athena, in ancient Greek mythology: 2 wds.
20. Toy company
21. Psychedelic† drug
22. Director Sidney
23. RIO 2016: Equestrian stars
25. Here: French
26. Tic-Tac-Toe win
28. Possesses
29. Travel __ (Trip planners)
32. RIO 2016: Like the in-the-pool swimmer: 2 wds.
34. RIO 2016: Athlete's story
35. Deanna __ (Counselor on Star Trek: The Next Generation)
37. Fauna's friend
38. O Meridian letters
39. RIO 2016: Points in Soccer
40. Greenish hue
41. Irritate
42. Witty remark: 2 wds.
43. Method
45. __ culpa!
46. Bottom-of-letter letters
47. Rocky hill
48. "__ the highest bidder!"
50. Frigid
52. RIO 2016: American Samoa, IOC-style
53. RIO 2016: Gymnastics legend Ms. Korbut
56. RIO 2016: One of a Heptathlete's skills: 2 wds.
59. "That's __" by Dean Martin
60. RIO 2016: "O Canada! Terre de nos __..."
61. Hebrides 'no'
62. 'Wilde' tail (Gnu)
63. "__ __ Fine" by The Chiffons
64. Meadow mom

DOWN
1. Curdle
2. Competently
3. RIO 2016: Sports __ (Training component)
4. Rock supergr.
5. Strives/works for: 2 wds.
6. RIO 2016: Runs after a ball
7. RIO 2016: Passes the ball or baton
8. RIO 2016: IOC code for Luanda's country
9. Cite, as evidence
10. RIO 2016: Racket sport
11. Movie bee-keeper
12. Quiz
13. "Jaws" (1975) director's initials-sharers
18. Cow's sound
19. 'Few'-meaning prefix
24. Ostrich-like bird
26. Lummoxes
27. Earthenware pots
29. River islet
30. RIO 2016: Sport for Canada's flag bearer Rosie MacLennan
31. Arias
33. RIO 2016: Some athletes
34. RIO 2016: Cycling __
36. 'Special' suffixes
38. Emerald
39. Prod
41. Rigoletto opera composer
42. RIO 2016: BLR is its IOC code
44. Loo
45. Dances, at a '90s concert
48. Composer/pianist Erik
49. Haul
50. RIO 2016: Team match-up
51. RIO 2016: "Yippee!" in ancient Greece
54. Chew
55. James __ (Pulitzer-winning writer)
56. RIO 2016: Boxing blow
57. "Nope."
58. Soup flavouring cube

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Sudden changes to travel plans are likely. You might meet someone from far away or be surprised to encounter someone from another culture or a different country. Likewise, legal decisions will be unexpected.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Check your bank account for something unexpected: shared property, taxes, debt, inheritances and wills. Make sure you know what's happening.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
A partner or close friend might throw you for a loop today by doing something you least expect. Someone might demand more freedom in the relationship.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Interruptions to your work are likely. (Computer crashes, equipment breakdowns, staff shortages and canceled meetings are just some examples.) Allow extra time to cope with this.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
A surprise invitation to a vacation or a social event might come your way today. Children might be the source of a surprise. Ditto for sports.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Something to do with your home routine will change today. Perhaps small appliances break down or minor breakages will occur. Perhaps unexpected company arrives.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Your mind is racing today, because it's full of ideas that you want to share with others — especially siblings, relatives and daily contacts. It's easy to think out

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today you might find money; you might lose money; you might lose an item or you might find something that was lost. Count your change and check your bills.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You feel independent and confident today. You also feel ambitious, which is why you might do something different or spontaneously take a new direction.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
An unexpected secret might come out today because something related to a hidden matter will surprise you. Or you might make a breakthrough in a research project.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You love characters! Today is a classic type of day to meet someone who is unusual and different. However, someone you already know might amaze you in a weird way.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You might be surprised or caught off guard when talking to parents and bosses today. Someone might suggest something that ultimately gives you more freedom.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

3						6		8
	2			3		9	4	
4	5		1		9			
		6		4		8		
	4						2	
		3		1		5		
			3		4		9	7
	1	4		8			6	
7		9						5

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YOUR STORY MUST CHANGE

There is no person without a past; and the past should not be allowed to affect the future. The prodigal son realized his mistake, "And he arose and came to his father" (*Luke 15: 20a ESV*). You can make a decision today to forsake your old ways by giving your life to Christ and allow Him to rewrite your story.

For prayers and counseling call the pastor at 587-579-0454

RCCG CHRIST EMBASSY CHURCH
4315 26th Ave SE, Calgary, AB
EMAIL pastor@rccgchristembassy.org
WEBSITE rccgchristembassy.org

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

8	9	2	6	5	4	3	7	1
1	7	5	8	3	2	4	6	9
4	3	6	9	7	1	2	8	5
3	8	1	2	4	9	7	5	6
5	2	7	3	1	6	8	9	4
9	6	4	7	8	5	1	3	2
7	1	9	4	6	8	5	2	3
6	5	3	1	2	7	9	4	8
2	4	8	5	9	3	6	1	7

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